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THE TIMES

Make-or-break chat
for Mr Carter:
Lord Chalfont, page 12

Mr Callaghan warns Russia against meddling in Africa

Mr Callaghan warned Moscow yesterday against getting too heavily involved in Africa. If intervention continued, he told a meeting of socialist leaders in Amsterdam, other East-West issues would be affected. Détente in Europe

required restraint in countries outside Europe. The Prime Minister also called for sympathetic study of President Carter's warning on the danger of civil nuclear power leading to the proliferation of atomic weapons.

Détente in Europe 'requires restraint'

From Sue Masterman

The Hague, April 17

Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, warned the Soviet Union today against intervention in Africa. At a meeting in Amsterdam of leading international socialists, he said: "I am not denying the Soviet Union her legitimate rights as a superpower. Our superpower status brings with it superpower responsibility—to know when to stay out."

Addressing delegates from 24 countries, including eight heads of government, Mr Callaghan was critical of non-military nuclear power. He stated: "The closer you are to this nuclear problem, the more you see the real dangers the world faces, and it is in that sense, as citizens of the world, that the approach made by President Carter should be viewed."

"My message is simple and direct," Mr Callaghan declared. "There is no such thing as

"compartmentalized détente". Security and cooperation in Europe, he said, required restraint and prudence in other countries outside Europe in both policies and practices.

The Prime Minister said there was still time for Africa to solve its problems, but the solutions should come from within Africa. "There is much dry tinder on that which outside countries could be the means of igniting—and not only in the white-ruled countries."

The other leading topic raised by Mr Callaghan was control of non-military nuclear power. He stated: "The closer you are to this nuclear problem, the more you see the real dangers the world faces, and it is in that sense, as citizens of the world, that the approach made by President Carter should be viewed."

"The time before us is very short," he continued. "If we cannot get international agree-

ments which are fully observed,

then I think the world is on the most dangerous path it has had since the Book of Genesis was written."

Mr Callaghan appealed for a generally recognized estimate of the world's energy resources on the basis of which the need for nuclear energy development could be weighed. He added that neither he, nor President Carter, nor Mr Brezhnev, judging by talks he had had with them on this subject, wanted nuclear know-how limited merely because they themselves were in possession of that knowledge.

The issue of civil nuclear energy has far-reaching political consequences within Europe. To mention just one problem, West Germany has now sold a nuclear power station to Brazil with a promise of the delivery of enriched uranium manufactured in Holland.

In order to manufacture the quantities necessary, the ultra-

centrifuge plant in Almelo, just on the Dutch side of the West German border, must be expanded. The Dutch Socialist Party, now the biggest in Parliament, opposes this expansion, and resists deliveries to Brazil so long as that country has not signed the non-proliferation treaty. President Carter has also raised strong objections.

It may have been pure coincidence, but Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, left the conference today at about the same time that Mr Callaghan was arriving. For Herr Schmidt the political consequences of the Brazil deal are highly sensitive, just as they are for the Dutch who seem determined to follow the Carter policy.

The socialist leaders were meeting to discuss their standpoints at the Belgrade conference later this year, which will make an assessment of the results of the Helsinki agreement.

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Mr Callaghan with socialist leaders at the Amsterdam conference yesterday. Left to right: Mr Yigal Allon (Israel), Mr Joop den Uyl (Netherlands) and Herr Willy Brandt (West Germany).

Dr Owen sceptical of Smith sincerity

Luanda, April 17.—Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said here today that he shared the general scepticism regarding the sincerity of Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, over Black majority rule.

Many people were sceptical of Mr Smith's commitment, and "I must say I share this scepticism," he said. The Foreign Secretary flew to Angola from Salisbury this morning.

He made his remarks shortly after talks with President Neto, Mr Paul Jorge, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Roberto de Almeida, his deputy. The talks, he said, had been extremely helpful and friendly. "The response was good."

Later Dr Owen flew on to Lagos where he met Nigerian leaders before leaving for London.

Dr Owen told reporters before leaving Luanda there could be no question of asking the militant nationalist Patriotic Front to abandon its armed struggle in Rhodesia until there were effective guarantees that majority rule would be restored. "I have not asked them to give up the armed struggle."

He said President Nyerere of

Tanzania, President Machel of Mozambique, President Kaunda of Zambia and Sir Seretse Khama, President of Botswana, had told him clearly that they would continue to support the armed struggle but did not see this as incompatible with a search for a peaceful solution.

The big difference between himself and Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leaders, was that he believed all nationalist opinion should be consulted while they believed that since they had taken up arms they represented the weight of nationalist opinion.

Dr Owen said his refusal to support calls for a total economic embargo on South Africa was based on Britain's economic interest and "I am not ashamed to say it." Sanctions would also cut South Africa off from the Western world and result in a strengthening of its apartheid policies. South Africa had to change, but that change would not occur overnight.

On Zaire Dr Owen said it was difficult to know what was actually happening but he emphasized that respect for territorial integrity was vital for stability in Africa.

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Dr Owen left for Lagos preparations were under way in Luanda for the opening tomorrow of the two-day summit of the presidents of the five "front-line" African states.

Dr Kaimosi and Dr Nyere arrived as Dr Owen ended his tea-time visit, while Mr Matchik arrived last night. Sir Seretse Khama was due later today.—Agenzia France Presse and Reuter.

Nicholas Ashford writes from Salisbury: Dr Owen is to decide "within the next week or two" whether to go ahead with plans to hold a new round of constitutional negotiations on the future of Rhodesia.

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Rhodesians impressed, page 4

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War museum paintings destroyed by fire

HOME NEWS

First step towards coordinating control of Civil Service manpower and spending levels

By Peter Hennessy

An attempt to improve government control of public expenditure and public service manpower is to be made by strengthening the inter-departmental links between the Treasury and the Civil Service.

The present division of responsibility, with public expenditure in the hands of the Treasury and manpower controlled by the CSD, has been criticized by Mr Edward Heath and Sir Harold Wilson, the former Prime Ministers.

The question of combining the two functions in a new Ministry of Manpower and Budget is being considered by the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure, to whom they presented evidence earlier this year.

A regular monthly meeting at deputy secretary level has been instituted to enhance coordination between the two departments. The Treasury is represented by Mr Gordon Downey and the CSD by Mr Richard Wilding. Controlling the cost of central government is top of the agenda at the meetings.

The object is to ensure that Civil Service staff levels reflect the general economic objectives of the Government.

The efficiency of Whitehall departments and the quality and detail of the spending information provided by their finance divisions will be jointly assessed. Boundary disputes, involving the overlapping responsibilities of the Treasury

and CSD, will also be resolved by Mr Downey and Mr Wilding.

Grant-aided bodies like the British Library and the Arts Council, for example, are Treasury responsibility. The Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality are handled by the CSD, although the Treasury is consulted on the non-manpower aspects of the two bodies.

Before 1968, when the CSD was founded on the recommendation of the Fulton report, the Treasury was responsible for public service pay and manpower as well as the management of the economy. After 1968 working links between civil servants sharing a joint background were natural and easy.

But, as the generation of civil servants involved has changed, a more conscious effort has become necessary. The CSD is keen to establish a systematic exchange of personnel between its manpower division and the public expenditure divisions of the Treasury for that purpose.

Neither department sees much virtue in an unscrapping and reform of their responsibilities. Civil servants in the Treasury's public services section argue that their work fits more naturally with the overall management of the economy than with the control of public service manpower.

The CSD believes that the developing fusion of its manpower and management services sides would be jeopardized

should manpower be taken from it and placed with public expenditure. A separate department, Office of Paymaster General, for example, that the new role of the CSD's 40-strong staff in particular in combining an efficiency audit with the control of Whitehall numbers would be at risk should the Prime Minister decide on change.

The review of their joint relationships was conducted separately from the select committee's inquiry and its resultant debate. It arose out of the CSD's management review last year and a self-examination exercise mounted last autumn by the Treasury's public services sector.

Both studies judged the critical relationship on public expenditure to be adequate. A CSD under-secretary, Mr Noel Moore, sits on the Public Expenditure Survey Committee and attends the periodic meetings of officials on the levels of cash limits. The new monthly meeting of deputy secretaries was designed to add formality to the present arrangements.

£8,000 Co-op theft

Two gunmen abducted the assistant manager of the Cambridgeshire Co-operative stores in Saffron Walden, Essex, on Saturday when they stole £8,000 from the shop. Mr David Davies of Little Walden Road, Saffron Walden, was tied up and left at an airfield, where he was found more than three hours later.

Both the police and the public

The local elections, 1: Labour Party has its back against the wall

Conservatives are looking for a bumper year at the polls

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

It does not require a claim or even an opinion poll to suggest that 1977 will be the best year in local government for the Conservative Party for a decade.

On May 5, the electors in England and Wales will have the opportunity, for the first time since 1973, to reshape their county authority, or the Greater London Council; both Scotland and Northern Ireland have district elections on other dates.

The 1973 elections proved very successful for Labour, with the Conservatives in government, and the cycle looks set to turn full circle this year.

Because the tide was so much with Labour in 1973, their victories represented their optimum achievement. With no advantage to either party, it is up to seats and authorities, built with national opinion firmly behind them, the party is having to fight hard to moderate its confidence.

In England Labour controls the GLC, which will be discussed in another article, all six of the metropolitan county councils set up in 1973 under local government reorganization, and seven of the 39 non-metropolitan counties.

Since the particular form that reorganization took was a Conservative government's brainchild, Labour supporters were delighted to take the six metropolitan counties. This year they all, with the exception of South Yorkshire, look vulnerable.

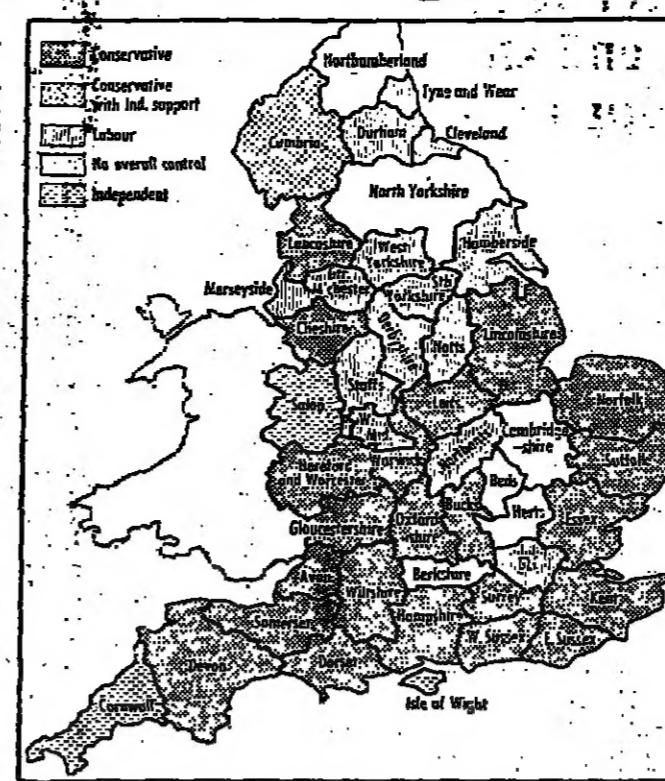
The giant authorities are

still not well known to many voters. They do not have the responsibility for the services that directly affect their populations, save for transport. It is in that field that Labour hopes to influence the elections. Most of the councils attempted to keep down public transport fares, but only South York-

shire has been able, largely because of its rock-like support, to maintain that policy.

Otherwise the vote is likely to be on national lines, and the fact that the council is remote must add to the negative of protest vote. So Merseyside, where only four seats have to pass from Labour to Conservative, is the survivor of the electoral disaster of 1968.

Tomorrow: The GLC



Present political complexions of the county councils.

Seeking a solution for the conflict at Carstairs

By Ronald Faus

Edinburgh

The Carstairs state mental hospital inquiry will this week begin to sift a month of disturbing evidence about the security and operation of the hospital to formulate recommendations on how the establishment should be run.

The hearing of evidence has ended and Mr Robert Reid QC, the Sheriff Principal, and his three assessors are preparing their report for the Secretary of State for Scotland on how two certified psychopaths were able to escape from Carstairs, which is the Scottish equivalent of Broadmoor.

During the escape a nurse, another patient at the hospital and a policeman were murdered. What the staff at Carstairs hope to find in the report are suggestions on how to reconcile differences between those at the hospital who regard the inmates as patients receiving medical treatment and the security staff to whom the patients are prisoners.

After the escape and murder on November 14, relations between nursing staff and the hospital management erupted in bitterness. Picket lines barred some senior members of staff from the hospital and basic disagreements that had been present for more than four years came into the open.

The evidence at the inquiry brought many disquieting facts to public attention. Shortage of funds prevented a second security fence being built around one wing of the hospital. Inside Carstairs patients were able to manufacture an arsenal

of weapons, including a sword, an axe and a dagger. Two guitars were made from the strings of a guitar. The alarm system was heavily criticized.

A farmer living close to the hospital first heard about the escape of the two dangerous patients on television news. About 40 minutes elapsed before the alarm siren sounded, by which time three men were dead and the two patients, Robert Mone, aged 28, and Thomas McCulloch, aged 26, were 24 miles away in the third car they had hijacked.

The staffing level at the hospital was also questioned.

Nurses worked in 12-hour shifts and Mr Thomas Oswald, principal nursing officer, insisted that the hospital needed more staff and that changes would have to be made in the management structure. Even more important, he said, the hospital required a full-time head of security.

During the public hearing the number of staff at Carstairs was not specified, but it became clear that many at the hospital regarded it as inadequate. Many felt too that visitors to the hospital should be subjected to more stringent security precautions.

Carstairs has four hundred beds and was opened as a hospital for the mentally defective in 1948.

The view that the administration of Carstairs had become too relaxed was grimly confirmed by Robert Mone as he was driven back to Scotland in a police car after the murders. Escaping from the hospital he told police officers, had been too easy.

NES getting too impersonal, nurses claim

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Before reorganization of the National Health Service the hospital master was a focal point for decisions. But today many nurses feel they have no one to approach about their difficulties because of what often appear to be faceless tiers of authority, says a report on nursing by the Conservative Party's Women's National Advisory Committee, published today.

The report says administrative workloads have increased dramatically, with many reports to be written and queries to be answered, without apparent benefit to staff or patients.

The practice of referring to different grades of nurses by numbers is deplored by nurses and patients. It has contributed to a sense of impersonality greatly detrimental to the provision.

Until recently less than half of nursing staff belonged to any employees' organization, professional or trade union, but that has changed. Until the last two years industrial action was almost unknown. Now unemployment presents a hitherto unknown factor in the health service: nurses are not immune from industrial fears and anxieties.

In hospitals and the community there is more and more work to do but increasing financial and other shortages. Industrial machinery, with its mainly eighteenth-century houses and appeals tribunals, is extremely time-consuming.

That, the report says, places a new burden on all administrators, and senior nursing staff are deeply involved because any dispute has implications for nursing staff.

The report recommends 36 recommendations for reform, including a reduction in paperwork by introducing a form of compulsory training for nursing auxiliaries and nursing assistants, also cutting the spending of money on "expensive and glamorous equipment" while basic and essential needs remain unmet.

The Confidential Service? (Conservative Central Office, 32 Queen Square, London, SW1, 10p).

Stansted 'may need to expand in 1980s'

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Stansted could become an important international airport by the middle of the 1980s, the British Airports Authority's director of planning, Mr Donald Turner, said last night. It could serve 16 million passengers a year, the same number as Gatwick, without extending its runway or acquiring more land, he said.

Mr Turner, who was being interviewed on a London Weekend Television programme, said that if air traffic grew at present rates, both Heathrow and Gatwick would reach capacity by the 1980s. Stansted had all the ingredients for development.

Stansted was nominated as London's third airport in 1964 but was rejected after opposition from local residents. Alternative sites considered by a Government commission were finally also rejected because of cost.

A White Paper is expected soon to authorize the first stages of a big development at Stansted.

Dunham Park for National Trust

The National Trust has accepted the late Lord Stamford's bequest of the Dunham Park estate, near Altringham, Greater Manchester, with its mainly eighteenth-century houses and 3,274 acres.

The house will be open to the public after restoration work, which will probably take two or three years.

£50,000 winner

The weekly £50,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, was won by number 142K 189154. The winner lives in Cardiff.

The 25 £1,000 winners are:

2 EB 437775
2 5F 765200
2 5F 765201
1 JK 419043
1 JK 419044
1 5F 609006
1 5F 609007
1 5F 609008
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HOME NEWS

Three hurdles facing Government as Commons resumes

By David Leigh

Political Staff
The Commons resumes tomorrow after the Easter recess, with the Government facing three important 'unresolved issues': pay policy, European elections and devolution.

It also faces the bad effect on morale of the expected poor results in this month's two by-elections, and in the local government elections in May.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Conservative environment spokesman, confidently told Birmingham Tories on Saturday: "If we can build on our success last year in capturing so many of the districts, by sweeping the country, we shall have laid the basis of a partnership of local and national interest that we can consolidate in a general election".

The Government's talks with the trade unions will continue into the summer in an effort to get an agreement on a third round of pay restraint, against a background of continued parliamentary weakness for Labour.

Lacking even a majority in standing committees, and dependent on Liberal support for the rest of the session, the Government cannot be confident of what will happen to any legislation that it attempts.

On Wednesday the debate opens on the White Paper on direct elections to the European Assembly. The Government is

committed by its agreement with the Liberals to bring a Bill before the House this session, with a free vote on proportional representation.

Although Mr Rees, Home Secretary, and Mr Callaghan both repeat that Britain is in Europe to stay, many Labour MPs and some Cabinet ministers are still against direct elections.

Our devolution, which Mr Foot, Leader of the House, has proclaimed to be the 'great constitutional task', is unlikely to be an immediate prospect. The original Bill came to a total halt with the loss of a guillotine motion and few days at Westminster expect it to start moving again this session.

The Liberals, who have already put in one set of general proposals, are preparing a detailed set of devolution proposals for Wales. It will be several weeks before they are submitted.

Mr Foot and Mr Callaghan are coming under pressure from the Liberals, and from Mr Heath, who supports devolution, to make a decision to scrap the present Bill and bring in two separate Bills in the autumn first for Scotland and then for Wales.

The report of the select committee on MPs' interests, which was set up to hear in secret evidence about members' behaviour in the Poulson affair, is expected to emerge by the time the session ends in the summer.

Now Tories hold nationwide debate on education

The Conservative Party launches its national education debate this week with a conference aimed at setting the scene for a four-month drive to increase standards and freedom in schools.

The party's spokesman on education, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, said in a statement that the programme would start on Friday at Manchester with the first of three regional conferences at which parents, teachers, headmasters, educationists and other interested groups would put their views to him.

Other regional conferences will be held at Ely, Cambridge-shire, on May 12, and Portsmouth on July 1. Subjects covered will include parental choice and influence in schools, the role of examinations, and the school curriculum.

In addition, a conference to bring the aims of industry and education together will be held at Leicester on June 29; and in conjunction with the Human Rights Society and the Social Morality Council a conference on the future of religious education will be held in London in June.

Mr St John-Stevens said that another part of the programme would be a series of lectures during May in the House of Commons by leading educationists.

"It is vital that we restore confidence in our educational system," he said. "We must do all we possibly can to increase standards of literacy and numeracy. Above all, we must give parents a greater say in the education of their children."

Minister's call welcomed: The call on Friday by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, for parents to take more responsibility for their children was welcomed yesterday by the National Educational Research and Development Trust, which is based at Cambridge.

Mr Barry Knight, deputy director of the trust, said:

"Parents, properly consulted and drawn into the great education debate have an enormous amount to contribute. But as far as we are concerned the debate has been the flop of the year."

"Parents have always been largely excluded by the professionals. Of course, there are large numbers of parent-teacher associations; but do they really get to grips with assisting all the children in Britain's schools?"

Aid with rent 'too slow'

Social security offices are too slow to help people with rent arrears, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities says. Replies by housing authorities to an association survey showed that some authorities had a good relationship with local offices of the Department of Health and Social Security, but considerable difficulties were experienced in most metropolitan areas. The crux of the matter is the

attitude of individual local offices and the degree of willingness to work closely with local authorities in ensuring the payment of rent in supplementary benefit cases.

Authorities suggested that the association should discuss with the department the speeding up of the procedure for direct payments to tenants and emphasize the importance of making early arrangements for payment to avoid the build-up of arrears.

89 Year Old Spinster Dies of Cold

Miss N. P. was found dead in the kitchen of her home... The kitchen windows were broken and there was no solid food in the larder... There was no heating in the house. (Report in Daily Telegraph)

Help the Aged gets things done for old people in need...

One in four adults in Britain is now a pensioner. Many live in constant loneliness and neglect. Some scarcely get one tiny meal a day, and have the pain of hunger and lack of shelter.

Get Something Done

You can help at least one lonely or starving, despairing old person. With help towards a Day Centre to end loneliness (£8 is a real help), or food (£3 sends 20 good meals) or help provide a minibus to take frail old people to a Centre. Volunteers are ready and anxious to give their services—that's how we achieve so much with each £. They need the means to help... one of them waits for your practical gift. So does someone sadly battling alone...

Every hour counts when you're lonely or hungry. Please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room TS, FREEPOST 30, LONDON W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed.)

*Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

WEST EUROPE

Air disaster narrowly averted in Spain

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

A near miss between a British Airways Trident aircraft and a Boeing 747 jumbo jet belonging to the Israeli airline El Al has raised new doubts over the efficiency of Spanish air traffic control.

In the incident, reported by Captain Derek Baker, commander of the British aircraft, the Trident had in climb suddenly to avoid the jumbo which had been routed across its path at the same height.

Ten minutes later, Captain Baker's aircraft was instructed by the Spanish controllers to take a descent path which had been followed instructions, would have taken it into conflict with another British aircraft, a Boeing 727 of the independent airline Dan-Air.

Both potentially disastrous incidents occurred in the air space between Valencia and Barcelona.

Members of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations have reported four near misses in Spanish air space to their headquarters in London in the past 18 months.

The two latest incidents have been reported to the Spanish aviation authorities who are to conduct an inquiry. British Airways, the British Civil Aviation Authority, and the British Airline Pilots Association have also been informed.

Both incidents took place last Thursday while the Trident was on scheduled flight BA 142 from Heathrow Airport, London, to Valencia, with 82 passengers.

Captain Baker said he saw the

El Al jumbo at the same height, 33,000ft, while under Barcelona air traffic control and preparing to descend into Valencia.

"There were two or three seconds in which to take the decision to climb up and over the jumbo. We were approaching each other at about 450 mph and the missing distance was about 300 yards," he said.

Commenting on the second incident involving the Dan-Air aircraft, Captain Baker said: "If we had not been in touch with it and known its position, the results could have been very serious. Instructions from air traffic control could have taken us into its path."

Our Madrid Correspondent writes: Air controllers in Barcelona, which is in charge of the airspace in which the near collision between the Trident and the jumbo allegedly took place, said they were not directly aware of the incident but they understood a report on it had been forwarded to Madrid.

"Parents have always been largely excluded by the professionals. Of course, there are large numbers of parent-teacher associations; but do they really get to grips with assisting all the children in Britain's schools?"

Opinion poll findings show M Mitterrand sweeping to the front in political popularity stakes

French left continues its advance

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, April 17

An opinion poll published today in France-Dimanche demonstrates the continued advance of the left since the recent municipal elections. It appears at the very time when the Government is putting the finishing touches to an emergency 12-month action programme designed to reverse the trend and secure victory at the polls next year.

M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, emerges as the most popular politician as the most popular second in Mme Veil, falls back seven points, as does M Michel D'Ornano, the ill-starred government candidate for mayor of Paris. M Poniatowski, M Lecanuet, M Guichard and M Servan-Schreiber all lose ground.

The poll, carried out by IFOP, does not give the standings of President Giscard d'Estrées or M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister. But it does show that the French public regard M Mitterrand and M Chirac as the two men most likely to be called upon to exercise the highest political responsibilities in the future, either as President or Prime Minister—with a

All the other prominent personalities of the opposition benefit from this increase in public favour, bettering their January scores by as much as 10 per cent in the case of M Pierre Maurois, the Socialist deputy leader and mayor of

.

That Herr Klaus Schütz, the Social Democratic Chief Burgo master, should resign.

In Munich, four SPD city councillors have resigned from the party, depriving the SPD of its majority in the city council. They said they resigned because of the growing influence of radical leftist within the party in the city administration.

Meanwhile, the Socialist Unity (Communist) Party of Germany held its fifth congress here over the weekend.

M I Kapitonov, a secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet party, was the most senior official among the heads of 15 communist parties

Herr Gerhard Gruneberg, a member of the ruling East German Politburo, to the congress that the communists had no interest in fresh tensions

Suicide by fire near Paris

Nantes, France, April 17.—M Patrick Eustaut, aged 20, doused himself with alcohol, lit a match and died.

He set himself on fire in a car park near his grandparents' home outside Paris. A passer-by threw a blanket over him, extinguishing the flames; and a helicopter flew him first to a hospital near his parents' home in Rennes, and later to the Nantes burns centre.

Sweden departs Briton

Stockholm, April 17.—Sweden has deported Alan Hunter, a Briton aged 22, and three Latin Americans held during a round trip two weeks ago of alleged urban guerrillas.

In London, British immigration officials interrogated Mr Hunter for an hour after he arrived at Heathrow airport last night accompanied by two Swedish plain-clothes police officers—Reuter.



OVERSEAS

Dr Owen leaves the Rhodesians both breathless and hopeful

From Michael Kniipe
Salisbury, April 17

With a crowd of barefoot African children round him, and a few score black and white officials, guides and journalists jostling to keep up, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, strode purposefully down the dirt road.

"Where are we going now?" asked one of the entourage. "That," said Mr Eric Robinson, the Mayor of Marandellas, who was officially conducting the visitor on tour of Dombotombo African township, "is in the hands of Dr Owen."

The Foreign Secretary's firmness in indicating what he wanted to know and see during his whirlwind 37-hour visit to Rhodesia seems to have impressed both black and white Rhodesians.

Rhodesia is an isolated country, starved, and to some extent suspicious, of new faces and personalities. People tend to react forcefully to them. Dr Owen's youthful vitality, seemingly shrewd grasp of the situation and forthright manner have made a favourable impact.

It may have as much to do with the increasing desperation for a settlement as with the personalities involved, but he has had a much better reception than the luckless Mr Ivor Richard, chairman of the abortive Geneva conference.

The Foreign Secretary's visit began with a press conference at which he stated plainly what the issue at hand was—the handing over of power to a black majority government in 1978.

The left-wing technicians may join Italian Cabinet

From Our Correspondent

Rome, April 17

Italian political parties this week begin meetings of importance for the future of Signor Andreotti's minority government.

The Christian Democrats will discuss important legislation with each of the parties that indirectly support them by abstention in Parliament, including the Communists.

The talks could lead to closer association of the Communist Party with government and possibly to the inclusion of left-wing "technicians" in the Cabinet.

The objectives of the various parties, however, vary widely. The Communists and Socialists want a clear agreement between the Government and the other parties on how to deal with the main questions, such as the economy and law and order.

We must be open to novelties from a position of prudence combined with hope," Signor Andreotti said. If the meetings succeed, the situation "will without doubt be more stable."

Signor Galton envisaged "a package of medium-term commitments" and guarantees on both sides and possibly some change in the Government.

The left realises there is no point in demanding a full coalition at the moment. But Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, said today that the present "ambiguous and precarious situation" must be replaced by a firmer agreement. The "government of abstention" had been useful but had also had its drawbacks.

However, Christian Democratic Party leaders and a large section of the party are anxious that there should be no more than a "convergence of views" with the left on the main questions, such as the economy and law and order.

We must be open to novelties from a position of prudence combined with hope," Signor Andreotti said. If the meetings succeed, the situation "will without doubt be more stable."

Signor Galton envisaged "a package of medium-term commitments" and guarantees on both sides and possibly some change in the Government.

The following morning Dr Owen sat through an intensive series of meetings with a dozen groups ranging over the whole spectrum of political attitudes in Rhodesia. Significantly Mr Des Frost, chairman of the ruling Rhodesian Front, was present.

So far no Rhodesians have disputed that it was an impressive example of British statesmanship at work.

One assumption, instantly broadcast, was that Mr Young was "raising in" Mr Young, the undiplomatic inclined American representative at the United Nations. Mr Young, as Georgia's first black congressman, had gained a reputation of being an expert on Africa, and was brought to see Dr Owen from prison, where they are being detained without trial, and were thus unable to speak to the press.

However, the meeting itself indicated a fresh degree of cooperation between the British and Rhodesian sides.

In the afternoon, Dr Owen set out for Dombotombo, accompanied by a 35-car procession. The authorities boast that it is the first black township to be governed entirely by blacks, which might be something worth boasting about if independence was not just one year away.

The Foreign Secretary was being escorted round a smart new show-house by the white mayor when he was approached by an African who stated sharply that "no African could afford to buy the furniture, let alone the house".

So, escorted by the man who turned out to be a local organising secretary of the Muzorewa nationalist faction, Dr Owen and his wife Deborah saw some more modestly attributed African houses.

In one of them the Foreign Secretary asked the young woman of the house, an African nursing student, what she wanted politically. "Certainly we want change," she replied, "even if it comes violently. We want a better government which will give everyone the same rights to live and work."

"Who would you vote for?" Dr Owen asked. "I would vote for the most capable leader," was the reply, and he congratulated her on her political discretion.

That evening he spent nearly two hours with Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, recorded a television interview for the Rhodesian Broadcasting Corporation, and gave a press conference which ended well past midnight. He left for Angola at 5 a.m.

So far no Rhodesians have disputed that it was an impressive example of British statesmanship at work.

East week provided quite a maelstrom. Mr Young started by scoffing at people becoming "paranoid" about a few communists in Africa. That stood without official correction. Not so his later agreement with a questioner the South African Government was "negligent".

The State Department did President Carter corrected him, as far as for Mr Mugabe, his elevation to be, in effect, took force.

Mr Carter's speech in Geneva was to be, in effect, took force.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Bhutto voices fear of coup as MPs demand his resignation

From Richard Wigg,

Lahore, April 17.—Mr Bhutto has accused the Opposition National Alliance of using the present political crisis to stage "a civilian coup" in Pakistan.

In an interview with *The Times* this weekend, the Prime Minister voiced his belief that if he were to step down, as the Opposition and some elements in his own People's Party demand, the country would slide into a deeper crisis.

Apart from continued Opposition pressure, the most serious challenge this weekend came from a group of seven Punjab MPs of the ruling People's Party who called on Mr Bhutto to resign, warning him that they would leave the party if he did not.

During the interview Mr Bhutto sounded over-confident and went to great lengths to defend his handling of Pakistan's political crisis during the past month.

He also made a special point of asking to task the outside world "for taking what he called "a slanted view" of the crisis.

He described the Opposition leaders as "myopic men" whose purpose—behind the election rigging charges—was to gain power. They wanted, he claimed, to take Pakistan's socio-economic structure "back to the abominable and intolerable status quo ante."

"I have won these elections fairly and squarely whatever the outcome now," he stated. "It was no longer a case like in the past merry-go-rounds; I have brought about massive reforms. Western interests have not liked this."

"The Opposition's tactics are to try and intimidate the

Pakistan to close bars and turn to Koran

From Our Special Correspondent

Lahore, April 17

Pakistan appeared today to be heading for strict observance of the Koran with prohibition and censorship on religious grounds, as Mr Bhutto tried to pull the rug from under the orthodox Muslim elements in the right-wing opposition National Alliance.

Replying to criticisms voiced by Opposition leaders, who had enlisted popular support during the past month against the Government, Mr Bhutto said at a press conference here that he would be ordering the "immediate" closing of all bars and wine shops, with only foreigners and non-Muslim Pakistanis allowed to take alcohol.

Gambling of all kinds would be forbidden, night clubs banned and the Islamic Ideological Council would be charged with preparing recommendations within six months for the implementation of the new social orthodoxy. These recommendations would then go before the National Assembly and become law, he stated.

The Prime Minister also indicated that he intended to give the Opposition leaders "a little more time" to reconsider his formula for a way out of the present impasse.

Though denying that he was making concessions, the Prime Minister said he was willing to negotiate on a role for the armed forces and the judiciary in supervising fresh elections. He would also lift the emergency and ban on political demonstrations if the Opposition were to agree now to a dialogue.

In a quieter tone, Mr Bhutto said he had never desired to keep himself in power. "Being a politician is like a spring flower; it blooms and a time comes for him to fade. But that time was not in the present critical context," he added.

Amnesty criticizes Greece for leniency to torturers

By Our Foreign Staff

The Greek Government has failed to see through to the end the trial and conviction of all those responsible for torture during the colossus' dictatorship, according to an Amnesty International report published this weekend.

The report, *Torture in Greece: The First Torturers' Trial, 1975*, says torture was used regularly to enforce authority. But while praising the Greeks for acting against the culprits, the report says that since the 1975 trial other officers have escaped with light sentences or sentences commuted to fines. Athens is also criticised for failing to enact laws against torture or to compensate torture victims.

The Greek Government says there have been "400 torturers" trials, but it is unclear whether this refers to individual prosecutions or entire court actions. No central records of the trials have been kept, and the Government has not

revealed how many convictions have been obtained.

The report claims that the security police have been treated leniently and that some of the torturers still hold high military positions.

Amnesty is critical of the fact that the prosecution of the torturers has been left entirely to private individuals, while a government time limit for the filing of prosecutions resulted in two-thirds of the cases being dismissed by the courts because they were filed one day too late.

The report expresses the hope that the Greek example will prompt individual governments to re-examine their policies towards countries that use torture, but is dismayed that the prosecuting authorities have appealed against the sentences imposed in 1975 and notes that the sentences of up to 23 years jail may be reduced or commuted to fines.

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Prisoners of conscience



S Yemen: Tawfiq Az Azi

By David Warrs

Mr Tawfiq Az Azi, who was born in the Aden Colony and Protectorate, now People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), became a lawyer in 1965 after studying in Beirut.

On his return to the PDRY he became chief magistrate at the Supreme Court. In 1970 he went to the Yemen Arab Republic, but subsequently returned to resume his former position in the PDRY.

Mr Az Azi was last seen by friend in Aden on March 31, 1972. It is understood that his disappearance is related to his refusal to convict certain political detainees. Apparently Mr Az Azi claimed that they had committed no offence under the criminal code, and ordered their release.

His family have made repeated appeals to the President, the Interior Minister and the Minister of Security for information about him. In 1972, they were told that his body had been found in a river. His father was asked to identify him. The head had been severed from the body, but it was not that of Mr Az Azi.

International inquiries about Mr Az Azi brought the reply, from both the permanent secretary to the Minister of the Interior and the director of prisons, that he had been released on August 22, 1974, and was currently working in the Gulf states. Checks revealed that the person released was not Mr Az Azi but another prisoner sharing the same first name.

Further requests for information have met with no response from the PDRY Government.

Swiss man arrested: Mr Axel Johannes, the former general-secretary of the internal wing of the South West African People's Organization (Swapo), was released from prison at the end of a one year sentence for contempt of court—last month.

However, Mr Johannes, featured in the Prisoner of Conscience column on May 24 last year, was immediately detained. He had been brought to court to testify in the trial of those accused of involvement in the killing of Filomeno Elifas, the Chief Minister of Ovamboland.

Mr Johannes refused to testify because his testimony had been obtained under torture. He is now detained under the South African Terrorism Act which provides for indefinite detention without trial.

The accused found guilty at the Elifas trial—two men and two women—were charged with giving indirect assistance to the assassins. The women were given jail terms and the men were sentenced to death. However, on March 7 this year these sentences were quashed on the direction of Judge F. L. H. Rumpf after he had been given evidence that employees of the defence lawyers leaked details of their case to the South African security police during the trial.

Cairo hangings

Cairo, April 17.—Two Egyptians, accused of being Libyan agents, will be hanged on Wednesday for putting a bomb on a train at Alexandria last year.

Kadar attack on human rights campaign

Budapest, April 17.—Mr Janos Kadar, the Hungarian party leader, has warned Western nations not to meddle in European affairs over human rights issues.

"Everyone must understand," he asserted, "that today we are living in a world where even the strongest capitalist countries stand middle in the life of the smallest socialist country."—Reuters.

Belgrade, April 17.—President Tito said tonight Yugoslavia will not bow to pressure on behalf of dissidents.

He said millions of Yugoslavs were free to travel, but the country had been attacked "because of two or three passport not being issued—and which will not be issued"—Reuters.

Nazareth mayor turns away militant rabbi

From Our Correspondent Tel Aviv, April 17

Rabbi Meir Kahane and four armed fellow members of the militant Jewish Defence League were turned away from the office of Mr Bassan al-Shakfa, the mayor of Nazareth, in the town hall today.

The rabbi had requested an interview to discuss his plan to establish a Jewish settlement in the area, but Mr al-Shakfa refused to receive him.

Municipal guards blocked their passage in the lobby of the town hall which resulted in heated arguments. Guns were drawn and fists raised but there was no violence.

Mr Kahane refused to testify because his testimony had been obtained under torture. He is now detained under the South African Terrorism Act which provides for indefinite detention without trial.

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The crash happened a few days after it was disclosed that \$50m (£29,400,000) in his care was missing. This led to the collapse of the American Bank and Trust Co in New York—the fourth largest failure in American financial history.

Guerrillas 'financed by banker'

From Andrew Tarnowski

Buenos Aires, April 17

Argentina's military authorities believe they are on the wrong side of the financiers backing the country's crumbling left-wing guerrilla movement.

The budding scandal centres on Señor David Gravier, an Argentine international banking star, whose reported death in a Mexican air crash last August has frequently been questioned.

The crash happened a few days after it was disclosed that \$50m (£29,400,000) in his care was missing. This led to the collapse of the American Bank and Trust Co in New York—the fourth largest failure in American financial history.

Mr Fraser says sport and politics are linked

From Our Correspondent

Melbourne, April 17

The most interesting event at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference in Canberra last week was a firm opening speech by Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, criticising discrimination in sport. He surprised some Australians by saying it was "no longer acceptable that there was no relationship between sport and politics".

His speech was applauded by several African delegates. But apart from that, the conference was a quiet affair hardly attracting the interest of the Australian media.

More than 200 delegates from 61 countries attended, but with wives, secretaries and others the total number of people crowding into Canberra for the six-day meeting was at least 500. They took over both houses of Parliament and most of Canberra's hotels.

Earlier during the week, Mr Vitaly Ruben, the Soviet delegate, said that the disarmament talks between Russia and America would "finally and eventually" have positive results. Mr John Sparkman,

the American Senator, agreed, saying he thought there was a chance of a breakthrough when talks resume in May.

Two IPU reports attracted some attention. The first asserted that the liberation of Namibia (South West Africa) was likely to be realized through armed guerrilla struggle which would eventually spread to South Africa itself; and the second concluded that Chile had a Government modelled on the most totalitarian regimes the world had known.

The conference gave a warning that the world will face a water crisis early in the next century unless governments made concerted efforts now.

A Japanese parliamentarian said the world was one step away from chaos because of failure to agree on an effective law of the sea.

A suggestion was made by the United Nations representative in Australia that children should run the world's parliaments for one day in 1979 and that, if the experiment proves useful, it could become an annual event.

There were also the usual demands that South Africa end its apartheid policies.

Chou's widow visits Colombo

Colombo, April 17.—Mrs Tang Ying-chao, widow of the Chinese Prime Minister, Chou En-lai, was given a warm welcome when she arrived in Sri Lanka today.

The rabbi had requested an interview to discuss his plan to establish a Jewish settlement in the area, but Mr al-Shakfa refused to receive him.

Municipal guards blocked their passage in the lobby of the town hall which resulted in heated arguments. Guns were drawn and fists raised but there was no violence.

Mr Gravier, invested Montonero operations.

The methods being used by the security forces in the investigation are causing growing concern, chiefly as a result of the abduction of four newspapermen all linked to the independent newspaper "La Opinión".

The newspaper La Nueva Provincia de La Plata, which has close links with the military authorities, claims Señor Gravier invested Montonero gained from kidnappers on the Union des Banques Suisses for \$17m was paid into

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Demonstrators marching to the Soviet Embassy seeking the release of Jewish prisoners of conscience.

Protest over treatment of Soviet Jews

By Penny Symon

Britain's largest demonstration of feeling against the Soviet Union's treatment of its Jewish people took place in London yesterday when more than 6,000 people marched from Speakers Corner, Marble Arch, to the Soviet Embassy in Kensington.

They were led by Mrs

Natalia Sharansky, whose 35-year-old husband, Anatoly, had been asking for permission to leave the Soviet Union for five years.

Each of his applications has been rejected because, the authorities claimed, he is a mathematician with access to state secrets. Mr Sharansky and his friends vehemently deny this. They say that he is persecuted because he is a Jew.

He was arrested on March 15, and his wife, who has come from Israel to campaign on his behalf, told the demonstrators that she feared for his safety because the Russians were planning to charge him with

crimes carrying severe penalties.

Mrs Sharansky said that information had been received from Moscow indicating that antisemitism in the Soviet Union was expected to increase and that people applying for exit visas were being threatened.

The march was organized by the National Council for Soviet Jewry with support from Lord Fisher of Camden, the council's President. Mrs June Jacobs, its Chairman, Mr Tim Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove and Chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry,

Dire Carter warning to US today on fuel waste

From Fred Emery

Washington, April 17

Beginning in 1985 the world risks going through a "pinch" decade when demand for oil and natural gas will outstrip supplies, and the price of oil might go up to three times its present level.

These findings will be some of the conclusions of a report by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which President Carter finds disturbing. He intends to use it to shake the American people into agreeing to end their role as the world's greatest wasters of energy, according to members of his staff.

He is to paint the "scare" picture, they say, in a television address on Wednesday. He presents his full energy conservation policy in an address to a joint session of Congress.

His policy is certainly intended to make Americans pay more for all forms of energy—the only question is how far Congress will cooperate in passing the necessary laws. Mr Carter has, with apparent shrewdness, tried buttressing his authority by winning popularity during his first three months in office. At the same time he has openly admitted that his re-election to at least 15 per cent in the opinion polls with his energy policy. Anything short of this will look like victory.

The CIA is hardly first with the news of the coming energy shortage. But the very fact that CIA analysts are reporting that available reserves are less than hitherto assumed, is intended to cause a tingle of apprehension.

The CIA document remained confidential over the weekend, since Mr Carter was hoping to make the most of it on television. But most of the newspaper energy specialists have published revelations of its supposed contents.

According to these pundits, it is political and technical factors that will prevent timely exploitation. For instance, the CIA apparently says that the Falkland Islands have vast oil and gas potential. But Britain's dispute with Argentina over the territory, together with the time lag in developing the necessary technology, makes it likely that these reserves will not become available before the next century. Likewise, Saudi Arabia is considered unlikely to go on allowing world demand to deplete its vast reserves at the present accelerating rate.

According to the *Washington Post* the CIA analysis is based on private reports from the United States oil companies. World demand, it estimated, would grow by 1985 to 67 million barrels a day from the current daily consumption of 57.

The value of the CIA report has been questioned already. Mr Ralph Nader, the consumer crusader, suspects the oil companies of an attempt to push up prices and some scepticism has been expressed in Congress.

Make or break chart, page 12

Business News, page 17

Japan united against 'Soviet bully'

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, April 17

Japanese Communists today joined conservatives in condemning Moscow for a new breakdown in negotiations over fishing agreements, which has stopped Japanese fishing operations within the Soviet Union's recently imposed 200-mile coastal zone.

SPORT

Rugby Union

Akenhead's encore role in a cast of thousands

By Nicholas Keigh

There are those who believe that the leading clubs play too much rugby, but Mosley showed no sign of fatigue towards the end of a tiring season when they proved a mismatch for Bridgend at the Reddings on Saturday. On a hard pitch Mosley excelled 16-man rugby and ran the light-weight Welshmen off their feet, scoring three goals and three tries (30 points) to a try and a penalty goal (one).

For Mosley, no one played better than Yannick, the No 8, a member of the England 19 group side who achieved a grand slam two years ago, a feat emulated by their successors on Saturday. Cooper was moved from stand-off back to the full wing, which seemed a better position for him, as use of the wing and the slope in the first half, when 11 wins put them ahead in the opening minutes, were missed by other players.

Couper gave Mosley a lead which they did not relinquish when he ran on to a little chip ahead by the hapless Lewis, found himself in the clean, and had time to take the options before running in for his try. Bridgend's try came from a break in Bridgend's 10-yard line. Next, a clever move by Cusworth, Akenhead and White on the left, bounded the Bridgend defence, which had appeared to have the answer in hand, and White made the touchdown.

Bridgend enjoyed their best spell and were rewarded by a try from Anthony after a scrummage near the line, although the wing, which patiently failed to ground the ball, often had to cross the line. No matter, Mosley were not in a mood to let a little misfortune spoil their day. Five minutes later the second half White scored his second try.

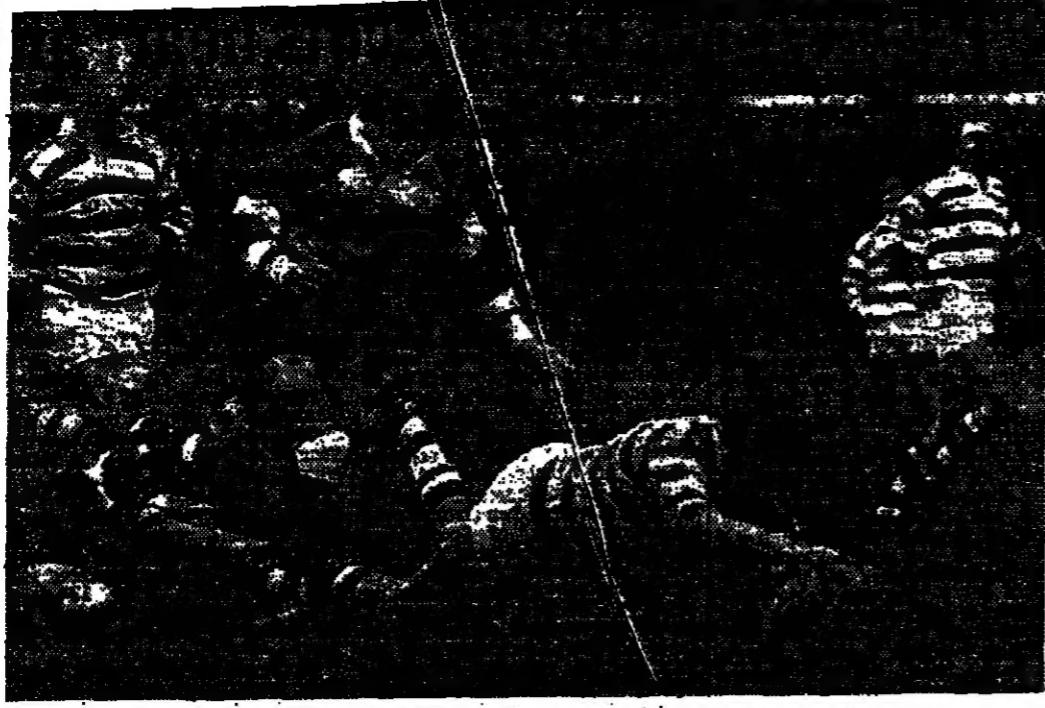
Mosley now sprang a stunning coup, with a try from a scrummage eight; as the score switched from right to left, the actors in order of appearance were Thomas, Barrie, Corriss, Warren, Adam, Gantos, Field, White and Swain (scorer). Akenhead obliged with an answer in hand, and White made the touchdown.

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As the flood washed over them Bridgend conceded two further tries, by the nippy Thomas on the right and by Cooper (which he converted himself).

Players: T. Thomas, R. Cooper, J. Barrie, S. Corriss, W. Warren, A. Gantos, F. Field, C. White, S. Swain, N. Akenhead, M. Corriss, D. White, M. J. Morgan (Lancashire).



Gosforth regain the lead; Hedley touches down for the try during the first half.

Gosforth forwards win the day

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

Gosforth as widely predicted carried too many gains up front against Bedford on Saturday, and it was no coincidence that forwards scored four of their five tries in a John Player Cup final, hard and cleanly contested, from which both teams could take some kudos.

It was level pegging—7-7—at half-time, and the two sides had much to do. Gosforth judiciously could complain—but the Gosforth backs were exerting increasing pressure some while before they turned round with the wind at their backs. Within minutes of the start, Robinson added two tries from under his opponents' noses at short range and these, with two conversions by the left-footed Brian Patrick, from the easier sides of the posts, effectively sealed the result. Though Waterloo had been forced to kick twice, it was a mood to let a little misfortune spoil their day. Five minutes later the second half White scored his second try.

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Spaven, enjoying a bruising confrontation with Gustard on the wing, on several occasions stormed clear from defence to score out the best in Gosforth's cover. Connor, the No 8, was outstanding in a gallant pack which gave him the ball.

It is such circumstances one takes for granted the deeds of the celebrated three loose forwards, Dixon, Utley and Robinson, and of Young canny propinquin, who had to be won by Utley, who was put in Robinson for his first try. Almost at once, Fisher took a strike of his own, and Gosforth struck but a Waterloo pack was slowed round and Robinson pounced on an uncontrolled ball for his second.

Following those two conversions, Waterloo were now 12 points behind but they got four back when mispasses by Ball as well as a drop-out by Utley gave them a chance to show their undoubted speed. Archer nailed his man short of the line, but Tickle hacked on a loose ball and scored himself.

Those hard and knowledgeable Gosforth forwards were obliged however to exit on successively lower ratios, and Gosforth ran out clear-cut winners by two goals, a penalty goal and three tries (27) to a penalty and two tries (11).

Gosforth are now bracketed with Coventry (1973 and 1974) as having won the Rugby Football Union knockout competition in successive years. This latest final will have given them considerably more satisfaction than their first when, admittedly without Roger Utley, they beat a Stretford Park side that was reduced to 14 men soon after the start.

There need be no despair on Merseyside either. Waterloo contributed two fine tries, and though increasingly worn down, tickled their hearts out for and aft and were ever willing to seize the slightest chance for attack.

Roberts and Dixon then again drove away from it and Masden provided an imide scoring pass for yet another, Masley to touch down. Ball's excellent penalty goal for Waterloo then secured victory for the interval.

The second half had hardly started when a loose deflection by Billingham at the foot of a Waterloo lineout was seized upon by Utley, who was put in Robinson for his first try. Almost at once, Fisher took a strike of his own, and Gosforth struck but a Waterloo pack was slowed round and Robinson pounced on an uncontrolled ball for his second.

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Stradey stages important occasion for Scotland

By Gareth Bowen

Stradey Park, Llanelli, is accustomed to staging important rugby occasions—and so it did on Saturday when Scotland 15 Group beat Wales for the first time. The Scottish schools coach Mr. W. Stradiey, who enjoyed a 10-year career with Scotland, said:

"Scotland's record is not good, but we have to make the most of what we have."

Stradey's record is not good, but we have to make the most of what we have."

Young England end happy season against France

By Tom Coombes

England 15 Group made a clean sweep of the international matches

at Wilmot on Saturday, beating France by a goal, a try and three penalty goals (19 pts) to a goal (6).

They went out strong in the first seven minutes, then they drew with France after defeating all others, and their obvious talent suggests that the false dawn of England's senior rugby will soon be no more.

The march was a happy end to the season in every way.

Young England's pack was particularly effective, and the

strength of the backs, the

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Commercial Property

Take-up of offices quickens

A marked increase in the rate of take-up of offices in the Mayfair and St James's areas of the West End of London during March is noted in a general survey of the market carried out by Drapers Jones. The survey did not relate solely to properties in which the firm have been instructed.

They estimate that during March the amount of space available fell by 14 per cent, from 914,111 sq ft on March 1 to 810,111 sq ft on April 1. That compares with a reduction of only 3.6 per cent during February and 10.6 per cent over the whole three months before February.

The change in March was most marked in the St James's area, where the reduction was about 28 per cent, although Mount Street and Threadneedle Street slightly more space was available.

The survey also indicates that the amount of space let in March in the areas of the City was more than double that in February.

A complex series of deals relating to Grosvenor Hill Court, in the West End, has just taken place. The freeholders, the Grosvenor Estate, and the lessors, the Diary of Town and Commercial Properties, have jointly sold the entire block, which occupies an island site at the corner of Grosvenor Square and Davies Street, on a new lease for 125 years at a low fixed rent.

The purchasers are the Cadbury Schweppes Pension Fund, represented by Strutt and Parker, and Barrington Laurence, who have taken a double block of 24,500 sq ft of offices, the bulk let to the Department of the Environment, together with a multi-storey basement car park and a block of flats. Before this final transaction Barrington Laurence had already acquired a double block of similar length of lease over the car park to National Car Parks, who surrendered their previous lease.

In addition, an immediate leasehold interest was acquired from Air Canada.

The total sum invested in the transaction, which were all completed on the day of Town and Commercial's liquidation meeting, was in the region of £5m.

In Leeds work is due to start this month on a new 12-storey office block in Abingdon Street, a development by San Alliance and London Insurance Group. Construction is by John Laing Construction on a contract worth £2.5m and completion is due in the autumn of next year.

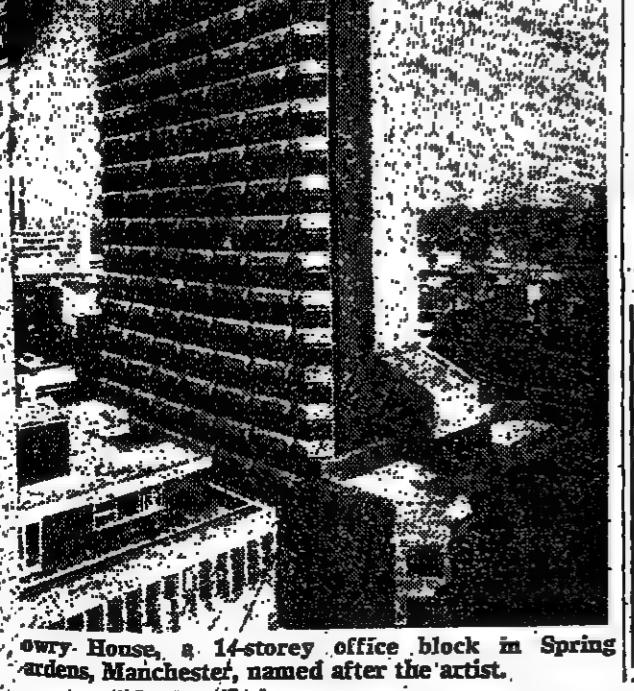
The scheme, by Leach Rhodes and Walker, of Manchester, provides for some 68,000 sq ft of air-conditioned space, and a feature will be an elevated walkway giving access to neighbouring buildings and the central shopping area. Weatherhead, Bull and Gale were contractors for the assembly of the site and are letting agents.

Officially opened last week was Lowry House, in Spring Gardens, Manchester, named after the late L. S. Lowry, the Manchester painter.

Gerald Ely

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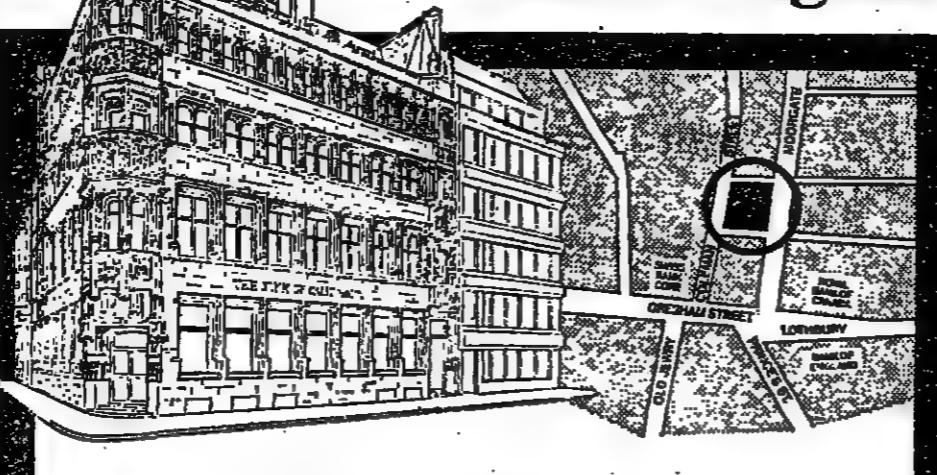
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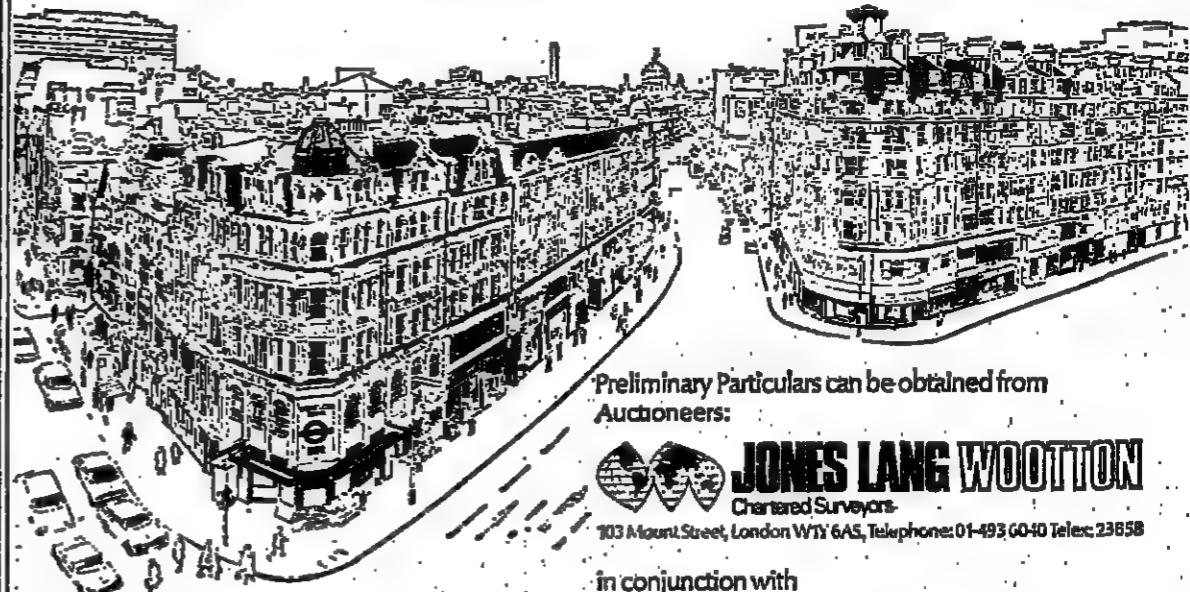
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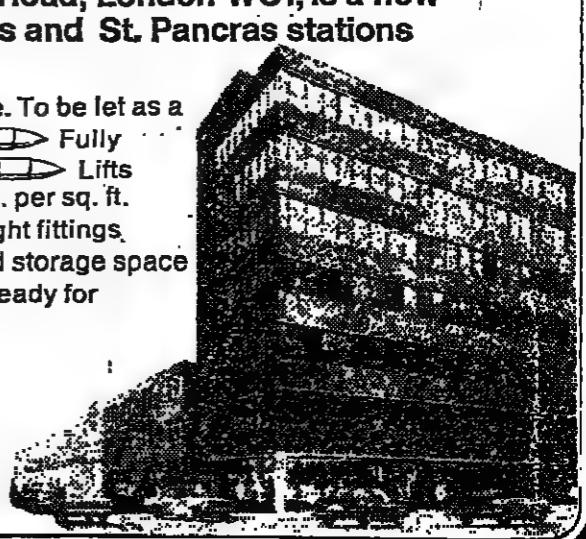
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THE GRAMOPHONE

A question of balance

by John Culshaw

is scarcely credible today that less than 40 years ago a gramophone was generally regarded as a toy; it still to take its place alongside radio as one of the two great musical communicators of the century.

Not that it had lacked musical values almost from the start, for great singers and instrumentalists were quicker than the public—and sometimes quicker than their companies—to grasp its merits. Yet until the end of the Second World War, recorded technology remained because of its limited capacity to reproduce music accurately and because the rpm format imposed an interruption every four minutes or so.

What can only be called a revolution began quietly in December 1944, when the English company Decca introduced rpm (full frequency range recording) which did exactly what it aimed to do: it extended the upper and lower recorded frequency range and so produced a much more accurate and immediate sound in terms of everything from a harpsichord to a full symphony orchestra. The next step came from the American company Columbia (CBS), with the launching of the long-playing record, revolving at 33 1/3 rpm, in 1948.

Within five years the 78 rpm record was dead commercially, and recorded music had made two huge steps forward: it had acquired a continuity of up

to 25 minutes a side Schubert's Unfinished Symphony reference book. Unlike three weeks to record an hour-long opera listed in the current Gramophone classical catalogues, it is permanent and can be referred to over and over again and compared with other sources.

The first recording of Wagner's Ring cycle was made in 1965; 10 years later there were four—and man's cool approach to some countries five—his own music as against competitive versions. A trend to treat it as a vogue developed for concert-house plans.

The only danger is that of regarding any performance of anything as ultimately definitive and becoming so accustomed to it through repetition that one's ears become closed to any different approach. But that is a misuse of recording, not a fault of the medium itself.

It is also why many artists like to re-record the same work at various stages of their careers because, for better or worse, their concept of the music changes with the years.

The breakthrough in classical music has been paralleled and economically surpassed by developments in pop music. Creatively this has been the most fruitful area in that music has been written specifically to make use of record technology, which has meant in some cases that such music cannot be performed "live".

In a different sense, but still with an eye on history, EMI in England encouraged Sir Adrian Boult to record all the major works of Elgar. Unlike the old days, it is often now the case that the enthusiasm of an artist or a producer will in the end determine whether a work is recorded or not.

In terms of institutional or private music education of the exercise is at least the equivalent of a while it may take up to

continued on next page



Lester Bookbinder, with acknowledgement to EMI Records, proprietors of the His Master's Voice trademark

Present perfect

by Patrick O'Leary

were strumming banjos in Negro minstrel shows.

But eyebrows were raised when cheap portables became available. They were operated by young men with loud socks, invading peaceful picnic spots with the strains of "I Never See Maggie Alone".

A few years later a radio-gramophone, with automatic record changer, was installed in our living room. Most of the work went out of home records, and the walnut cabinet meant the machine had been named and become a piece of furniture.

At that point, gramophones and portables competed, with only fleeting subsequent encounters. So an invitation recently to hear a

system said to combine binaural, biphonic and stereophonic characteristics was like being asked to step out of the Middle Ages into the space age.

The basic purpose is to enable music to be heard through two or four loudspeakers, with the naturalness normally restricted to listeners wearing headphones.

Browsing through the literature on the first 100 years, it is surprising how often some refinement apparently invented yesterday had its origin long ago. The original talking machines were designed to help or even supplant American stenographers.

Confusingly, even after the change Americans went on calling their displays phonographs. This arose through one of many courtroom battles over patents in the United States; lawyers had almost as much influence as inventors in the development of the machines.

In the 1920s came the use of electricity for both recording and playing records. Manufacturers also began experimenting with the newly invented wireless, building what they called phonograph-radio.

Simultaneously the appearance of record players changed. Loudspeakers, which had been growing bigger and uglier, were folded and fitted into cabinets. This made it possible for turntables to be concealed by lids.

Many efforts were made between the wars to extend playing time beyond the normal four minutes for a 12in disc. But it was the late 1940s before the slow-running, long-playing record made real headway.

Another 10 years saw the arrival of commercial stereophony, recordings made with two or more microphones, and played back through two loudspeakers. Now we have quadraphony, with four loudspeakers.

Along the way the gramophone has taken many strange turnings, some of them up blind alleys. Several models have to be seen to be believed, and the public will have opportunities to do so this year and to hear a few of them as well.

An exact replica of Edison's original phonograph is being made for an exhibition at the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, from early July to October. And in the comprehensive show will be one of the copies painted by the original artist of the trademark for His Master's Voice. The little dog proved better for sales than the earlier Recording Angel of rival labels featuring a listening car and short-skirted girls.

In the second half of August there will be an exhibition at the South Kensington headquarters of the British Institute of Recorded Sound. The institution which is organizing the display jointly with the City of London Photographic Society, holds a reference collection of nearly 300,000 records.

Not far away, in December the Science Museum will draw on the EMI collection to add to its own standing exhibits. One of the museum's treasures, difficult to miss is the papier maché horn which dwarfs an E.M. Gilm hand-made gramophone. The horn was made from telephone directories.

Frank Sinatra

Rod Stewart

Detroit Spinners

Yes

Gary Wright

Bread

Emmylou Harris

Jackson Browne

Led Zeppelin

Deaf School

Kate & Anna McGarrigle

Andrew Gold

Manhattan Transfer

Linda Ronstadt

Joni Mitchell

Fleetwood Mac

Judy Collins

The Meters

England Dan & John Ford Coley

Jesse Winchester

Everly Brothers

Dean Martin

Aretha Franklin

Al Jarreau

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America

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Jimmy Castor Bunch

The Drifters

Bette Midler

Alice Cooper

Doobie Brothers

Emerson, Lake & Palmer

AC/DC

PFM

Jimmy Cliff

Bruce Forsyth

Steve Goodman

John Le Mesurier

Roberta Flack

Eagles

Beach Boys

John Chilton's Feetwarmers

Average White Band

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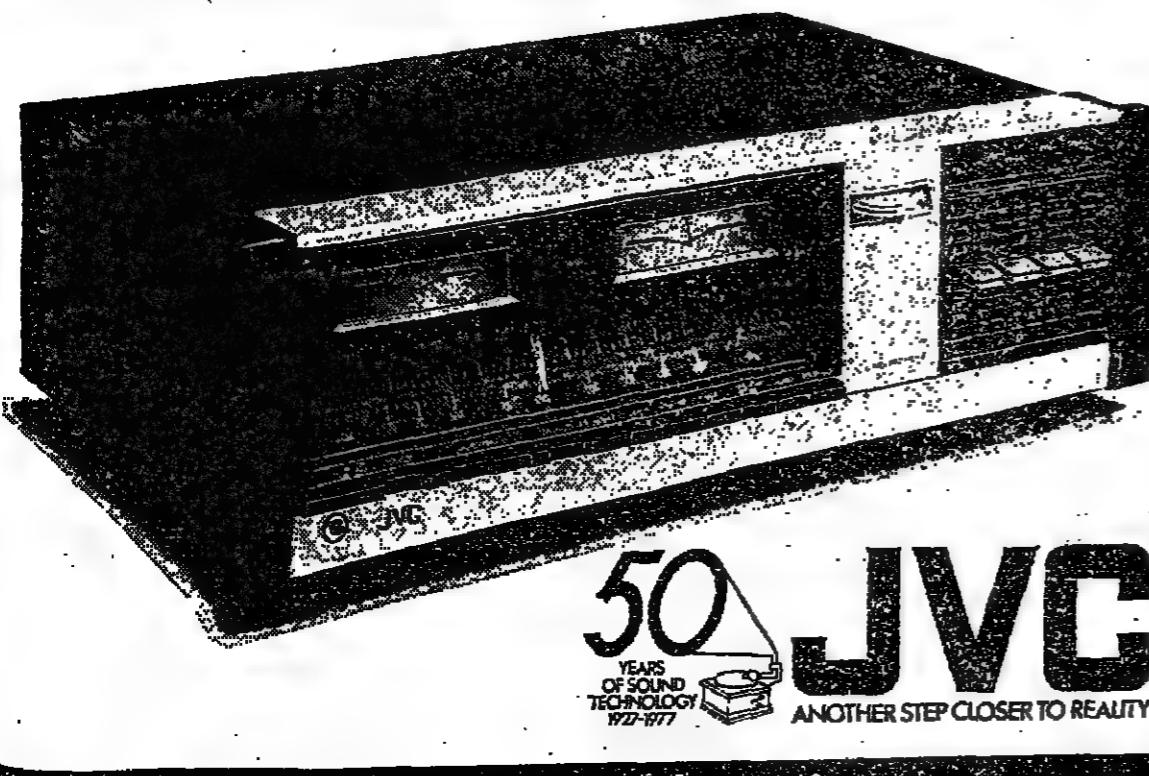
As in all the other JVC receivers, the JR-S100 has an elaborate OCL pure complementary power output section using high-quality discrete power transistors, the stability of a constant-voltage dual power supply and a fail-safe power protection circuit. The long and linear dial, sensitive and selective FM section and all other useful and

sound-improving features of the FM/AM section in this receiver are identical to those found in the more costly models. Of particular interest is the Quadrature Detector which provides wide-range, low-distortion signal detection with improved capture ratio, and the IC-formed PLL (Phase-Locked Loop) circuit in the FM multiplex demodulator to ensure better FM-stereo separation over a wider frequency range.

Also featured is an accurate centre-of-channel meter to show you when you have selected an FM station at the very centre of its signal where distortion is minimal and stereo separation at its best. It works with the signal meter which indicates when you are tuned to an FM signal (or AM) at its highest signal strength.

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Available at your JVC dealer from under £149 including VAT.



Recording the sound revolution

by Kenneth Gosling

It was a certain Mr Chadbourne, who made an impassioned plea at a convention in Chicago in May 1890 for some agreement to be reached on the considerable dispute which had arisen over the best way of presenting recorded sound.

Five years earlier, and some eight years after Thomas Edison invented the phonograph, there had appeared a machine called the

graphophone. What, Mr Chadbourne asked, was the use of having two machines? "There are splendid points about this graphophone, and I like it better than I do the phonograph—but why don't they make it all in one?"

The minutes of the convention of local phonograph companies at the Auditorium Hotel record that he went on in much the same vein. It seemed to him, he said, that the stop-and-start motion of the graphophone could not be beaten—it was splendid—while that on the phonograph was utterly worthless.

"And yet," he thundered,

you persist in putting out a machine that the public period in the history of recorded sound.

"Our continuing re-

searches", the BPI says, not clear; Edison, however,

in the same year, brought

out his own invention. His

name and date as being made of cardboard and the real origin of a recording method or medium". The replaced by wax when Alex Graham Bell came

to learn, since that was equally true of into the picture.

Edison's recitation of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

was the first sound to

emerge at the first public

demonstration. On Christ

mas Eve that year, he applied for a patent.

The phonograph was not

a taken very seriously; it was, in the public view, a toy, a primitive kind of juke box, or a rather unreliable dictating machine suffering from stenographers. The company

tried to sell the machine

sometimes honestly, occa-

sionally illegally—became

involved in all kinds of com-

mercial trouble.

In 1887 Emile Berliner

began building disc gram-

phones for Berliner from 1896.

This was a fruitful period,

as the BPI pointed out,

despite commercial

chaos, Berliner was working

to perfect the disc; Edison

was pressing on with the

business must have seemed

as frustrating as making a

film and not being able

to produce a phonograph.

And local companies were

sprouting throughout the

United States as licensees of

either Edison or Bell.

No wonder Mr Chad-

bourse was moved to make

his protest.

Progress, however, hap-

pened, was now assured.

By 1900 musical and mono-

logue recording were being

issued for home entertain-

ments and sold in steadily

increasing quantities.

But, for one man, whose

name crops up a good 20

years before 1877, the whole

business must have seemed

as frustrating as making a

film.

The author is Arts Re-

porter for The Times.

Needed over time

"Radio's bridle" is how the should also apply to Radio late R. G. Walford, then Manx Head of Copyright for the BBC, defined "needle time" in a paper in 1971. The definition remains a sound one since the Musicians' Union, concerned about its members' employment prospects, looks sternly on any infringement of existing agreements.

A one-sentence explanation of this procedure is contained in the BBC Handbook. "An agreement with Photographic Performance Ltd", it says, "provides for the right to broadcast commercial gramophone records, the BBC's various radio and television services being allocated fixed periods of 'needle time' in return for an annual lump sum payment."

With the advent of commercial radio, similar agreements have been negotiated. The first, which Mr Walford examined, was Radio Manx, set up in June, 1964, as the first commercial radio company operating on land in the British Isles.

It asked PPL for unlimited use of records, but PPL, a central body comprising most British record manufacturers which had existed since 1934, refused. No more than 20 per cent of Radio Manx's air time, it said, could be taken up with commercial records.

This was about the same proportion allocated to the BBC's domestic services, and what was applicable to them

that record companies fear the adverse effect of sales of the indiscriminate and unlimited use of a particular record, especially when it has just reached the market and made the top 10; in most needle time agreements provision is made for this coming into existence.

In the event, after hearings in 1964 and 1965, with the BBC and the Musicians' Union joined as interested parties, the tribunal decided that the PPL's refusal to allow more than 20 per cent of air time was unreasonable and awarded Radio Manx 50 per cent, with a maximum of 42 hours in any single week.

But of paramount importance was the attitude and influence of the Musicians' Union. The union laid down

K.G.

COST BREAKDOWN FOR RECORDS AND TAPE

	Full price	Budget LP	Pop LP	Pop single	Cassette
Value-added tax	£1.00	£1.25	£0.55	£0.55	£0.25
Dealer margin	33	33	33	30	8
Distribution	11	11	12	11	8
Artist royalty	13	6	13	12	8
Copyright royalty	6	6	6	6	2
Sleeve (box + liner)	4	6	4	4	2
Disc and pressing (duplication)	9	18	10	13	8
Marketing	8	3	9	7	3
Recording (studios)	3	1	3	3	3
Other record company overheads	4	6	4	4	2
Record company profit	3	2	2	2	2
	100	100	100	100	100

Percentages apply to goods made and sold in Britain.

that if any agreements permitted what it regarded as an excessive amount of needle time, it would then, if necessary, take industrial action against the gramophone companies by refusing to permit any commercial recording until the position was adjusted.

The union fears that if unrestricted and unreasonable needle time is given to the broadcasting organizations, the result would inevitably mean fewer live broadcasts and therefore more unemployment for its members.

In the case of Radio Manx, it was agreed that no record should be broadcast more than twice in each 24 hours or more than 10 times a week.

But of paramount importance was the attitude and influence of the Musicians' Union. The union laid down

K.G.

music from a golfball-like object placed in a large upturned dinner plate?

Or perhaps in years to come we will be able to dial in to a central computerized library of taped recordings thereby dispensing with the record altogether. But after a lifetime spent in this business of making and selling the sun's rays for power—but the basic process for reproducing sound still depends on the amplification of signals through a loudspeaker.

Admittedly, the way in which those signals are recorded and amplified has developed technically beyond the wildest dreams of Thomas Edison, but the principle remains the same.

However, the quality of recorded sound has improved dramatically, particularly in the past 20 years and given the proper advanced equipment it is now possible to hear music in one's home exactly as it is heard in the concert hall (even better than in some concert halls). But where are the radical new developments in the business of reproducing sounds? I wish I could tell you of startling inventions that will revolutionize our lives. Perhaps something by David Bowie in the film *The Man Who Fell to Earth* which appears to reproduce

the rapidly growing

leisure market encroaching on the music industry. Today's young generations have grown up with the sound of pop music in their ears—it is a part of their lives and I am convinced that our industry will not only maintain present sales but will be one of the big growth industries of the rest of this—and the next decade.

There will, of course, be changes and innovations and indeed two years ago it looked as if quadraphonic or four-channel sound was about to oust the stereo record. But the industry first of all misjudged the market with the public only then coming to terms with stereo, and people were far from ready to make another expensive change of playback equipment.

Also the consumer was confused by the variety of different systems of quad and video and the industry could not make a concerted exploitation of the new sound technology. Few were prepared to go back on systems against another. (A similar conflict between the cassette and stereo eight-track cartridge held up the development of tape sales for many years.)

I have no doubt that four-channel sound could in the next 10 years but to predict new trends in sound reproduction after that time really needs a crystal ball. The important corporations of the industry are developing many thousands of pounds in research seeking new ideas, but it is my own belief that the most radical changes in the coming years will take place in the recording studio where the sounds are made, rather than in the way in which they are played back in the home.

Over the past five years recording techniques have become more and more complex and the record producer and his recording engineer are now playing an increasingly important role in the manufacture of a record.

The consumer is now experiencing a far higher quality of sound reproduction with the growth of the hi-fi separates and music centre sections of the hardware industry, and he consequently demands a higher standard of sound from his records.

The author is managing director, RCA Records (U)



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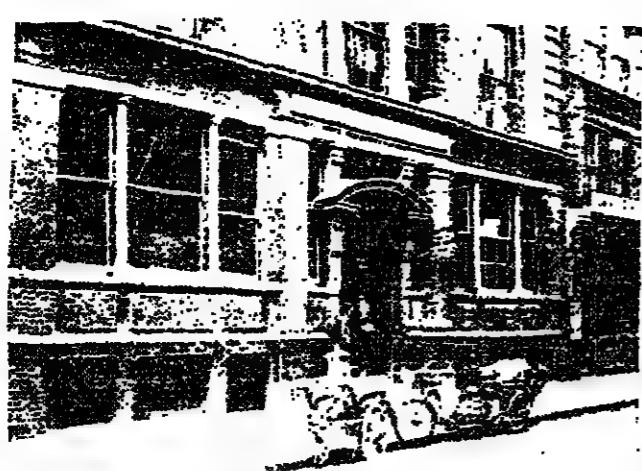
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A History of Recording



1898
First headquarters of The Gramophone Company in London.



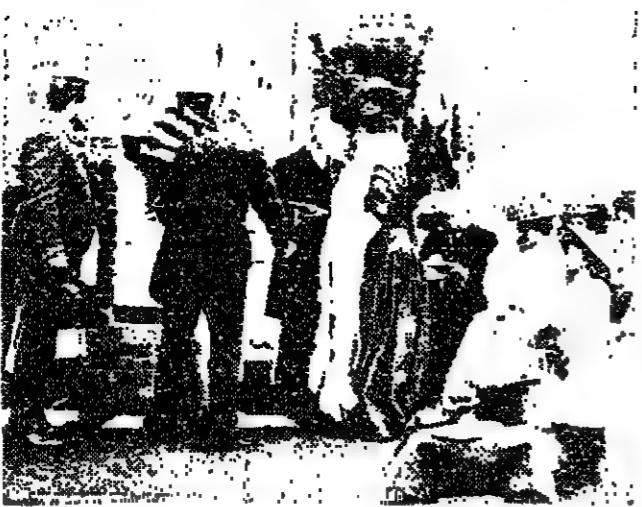
1899
'His Master's Voice': one of the world's most famous trademarks.



1902
Recording by HMV brings international fame to Caruso, the unforgettable Italian tenor.



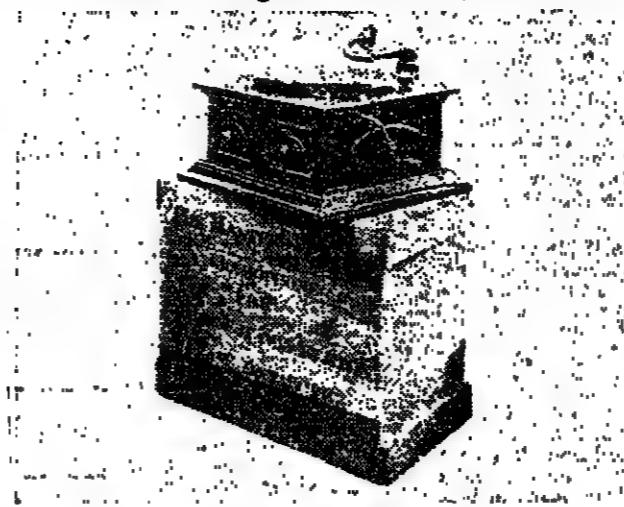
1905
A coup for the gramophone: The Queen of Song, Adelina Patti, records for HMV.



1907
Nellie Melba, the great soprano, lays the cornerstone of the new record factory at Hayes.



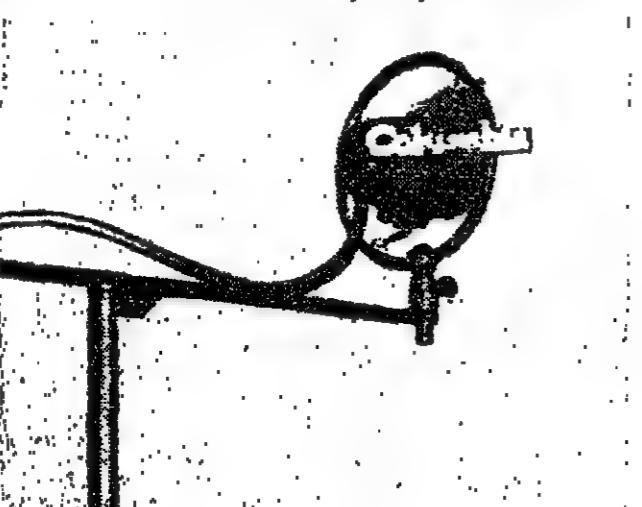
1913
Chaliapin, leading Russian performer, opens new recording rooms at Hayes.



1914
HMV gramophone plus the latest 'hits' goes to the South Pole with Shackleton's expedition.



1921
The Jazz Age thrives: Original Dixieland Jazz-Band.



1925
The microphone makes its debut in recording studios.



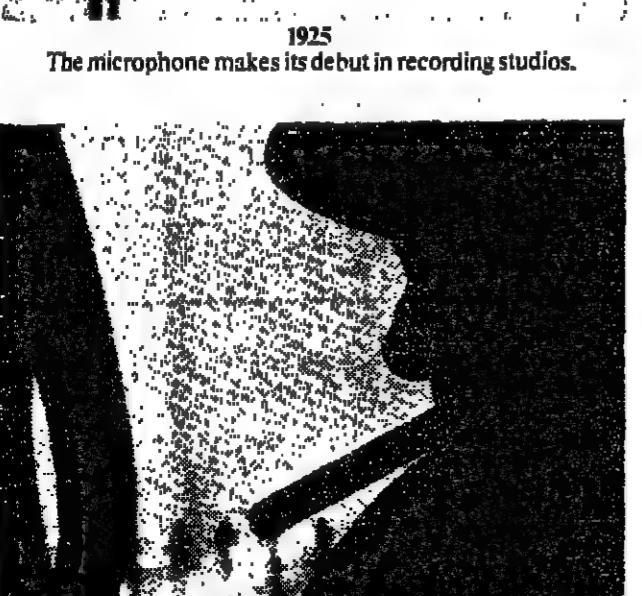
1927
The boy wonder: Yehudi Menuhin at the start of a brilliant recording career.



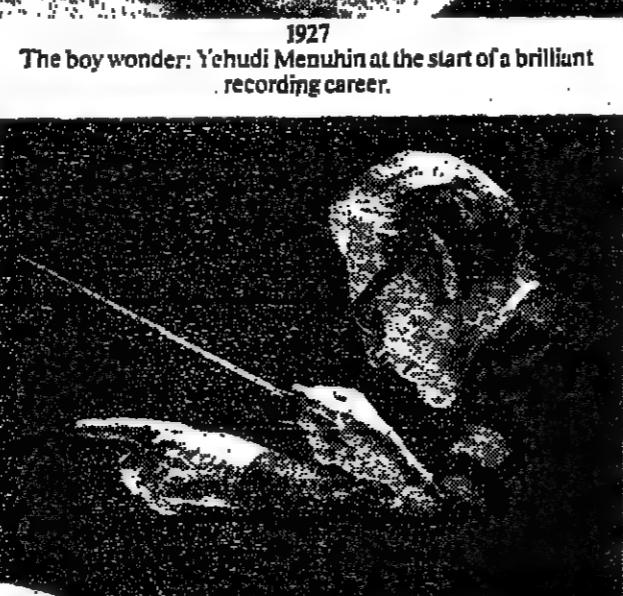
1930
The founding of Britain's world-famous recording studios, Abbey Road.



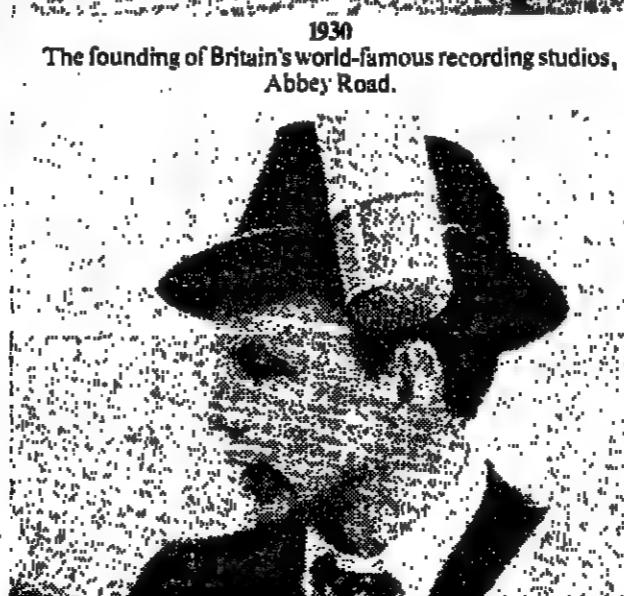
1933
Noel Coward exploits the artistic capabilities of the microphone, recording for EMI.



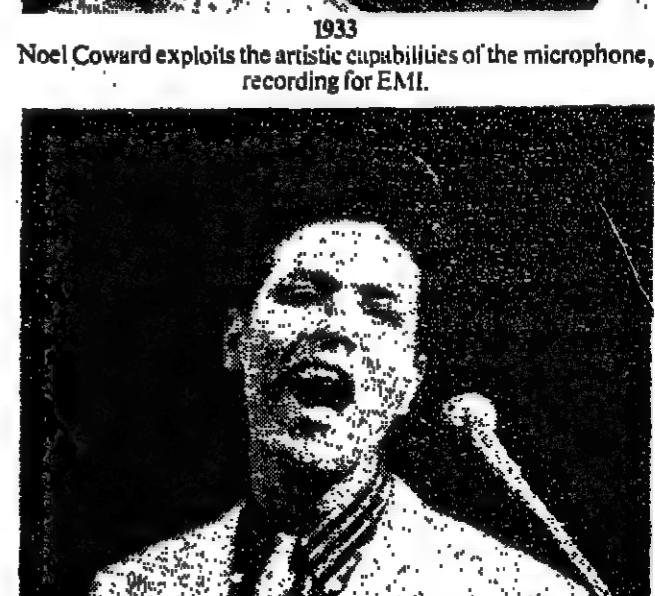
1940
Winston Churchill's wartime speeches perpetuated on HMV.



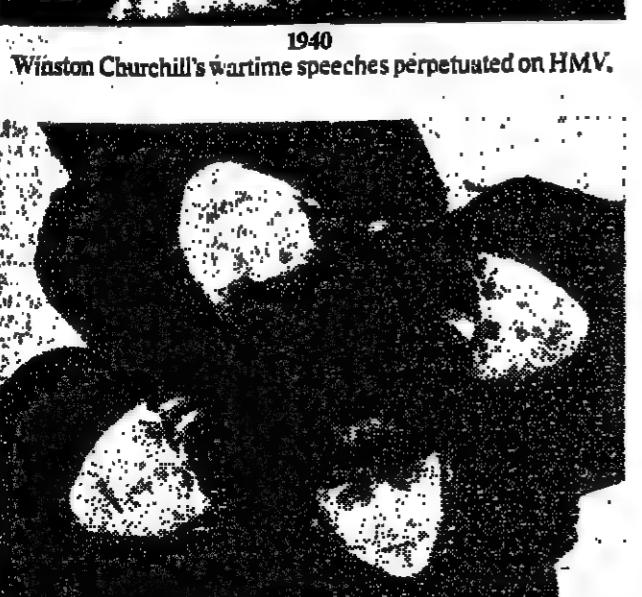
1948
EMI recordings contribute to re-establishing Otto Klemperer's international fame.



1955
Sinatra records...



1958
... and Cliff Richard.



1963
The Beatles make their first 'hit'.



1967
Landmark in stereo recording: new method enhances dramatic effect as Giulini conducts Verdi's Don Carlo.



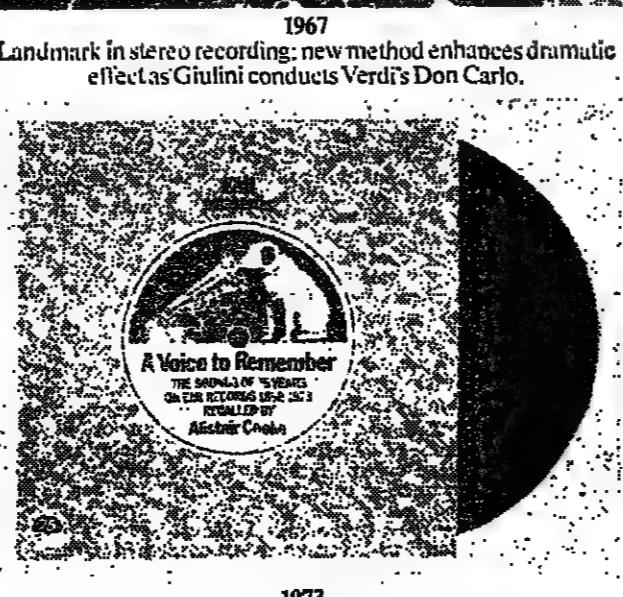
1969
Classical meets pop: Royal Philharmonic and Deep Purple, recorded together by EMI.



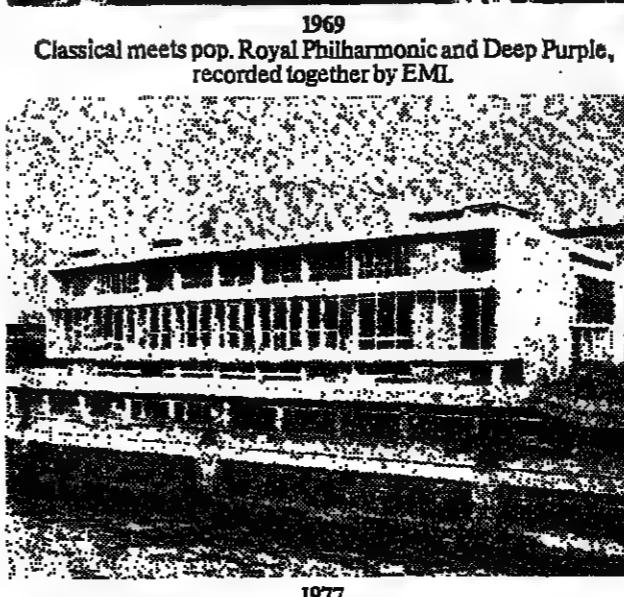
1971
The rebuilding of Abbey Road establishes new standards in recording technology.



1972
EMI opens new UK factory at Hayes, the largest for discs and tapes in Europe.



1973
EMI celebrates the 75th anniversary of its contribution to recorded sound.



1977
Centenary of Recorded Sound to be commemorated by a concert sponsored by EMI at the Royal festival Hall.



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Since 1898, EMI has made a large part of the history of recorded sound. The creative and technical advances we have contributed during almost 80 years have accounted for much of the development of the recording art. And as recording has developed and grown, so has our place in the music industry.

Today EMI makes one in every five of the more than 1,000 million records sold around the world. Every week EMI's music companies, in 34 countries, produce records in over 40 languages and dialects.

In the process, we have become a major international force across the whole spectrum of music, from music publishing to retail operations. In 1976 our music and recording activities achieved worldwide sales of almost £345 million.

All of which is a good record, by any standards.

Our past and present achievements are the foundation for our future commitment. We intend to make history repeat itself.

Popular marriage begets golden children

by Derek Jewell

An operatic tenor, Enrico Caruso, made the first gramophone record to sell a million copies (gold disc in the jargon of the trade), and he chose a piece from the operatic repertoire to achieve the innovation: "On With the Motley" from Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*. The year was 1902.

His deed broke the barriers of prejudice against the instrument and sealed its respectability—but it was the last occasion on which the classical European repertoire had a decisive influence in the history of the gramophone. In the twentieth century, popular music, (no one's great surprise) has been the *raison d'être* of the record business; and records, together with radio, have created the popular music business.

Even the coming of the long-playing 33 rpm disc in the late 1940s, taking over from the three-minute 78 rpm record, and so obviously convenient for the fairly unbroken recording of symphonies, was a benefit only, rather than an instrument of revolutionary change.

Until long-playing records arrived, popular music was mostly held within the trap of the three-minute disc. It was expected, even demanded, by the record-makers that artists should tailor songs or instrumental to their length. When Duke Ellington, for example, turned out the 12-minute composition which mourned his mother's death in 1935, "Reminiscing in Tempo", it was not warmly regarded by his masters because it covered four disc sides.

For so-called popular musicians—whether in jazz or, later, rock 'n' roll—the LP meant an exciting liberation. In the 1950s, jazz musicians grasped that freedom with performances of increasing length and complexity. Film soundtracks and stage musicals could be given a more extended run and, by the 1970s, rock musicians were encouraged to produce important works which bore an obvious resemblance to the symphonies

ies, suites and operas of the ally in the classical area, with previous two centuries. The which might otherwise have been impossible. And, in the first and second half of the century was history not only of popular music but also of the sociological development of the western man.

It has been artistically but also of the technological condition of liberating in another way. A and political condition of an orchestra, may be performed similarly in either concert hall or recording studio. This is not true of many works by popular musicians. Mike Oldfield is an extreme example, creating a composition like *Planets* almost as a soloist, recording separate tapes playing many instruments, then mixing them to make a quasi-orchestral whole.

The mixing of differing tapes is now part and parcel of what hundreds of solo artists and groups regularly do. It is, indeed, an art in itself. Contemporary popular music is to a large extent a child of the recording studio.

Riddles of terminology

The very word "popular" is, inevitably, loosely used and often misunderstood today. It is employed here to mean the many twentieth-century derivatives of Afro-American music—the outcome of the merging of European and African modes which happened in the United States during the nineteenth century.

World songs, spirituals, gospel music, ragtime, blues, jazz, rhythm-and-blues, crooning and rock 'n' roll were some of those derivatives, and during our century so many side influences (from 1940s' folk music and vaudeville to abstract avant garde works) have also affected these styles that it has become increasingly difficult even to know what is meant by the phrase "jazz musician". Yes—but what kind of jazz? Traditional, mainstream, big-band, bebop, new-wave? "Rock" covers an even more confusing multitude of sins, and virtues.

Despite such riddles of terminology, there is a vague general recognition of the connotation of "popular"; and after Caruso's breakthrough, popular music and the gramophone were indisputably wedded. "Gold" discs are not, the whole story, certainly not in artistic terms; but they are important. The money they have brought to the record industry has enabled many companies to maintain wide-ranging repertoires, especially

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Mixed to match

by Kenneth Owen

Computer-aided sound mixing in recording studios marks the start of the modern record-making process; computerized processing of orders for dealers is the final stage. Between these two points lies a complicated sequence: combining the technology of synthesis with human creativity and skill.

New tracks can be added—a vocalist might record separately from his or her musicians; exotic accompaniment might be recorded in another country; different versions (repeated attempts at the same version) of the music might be recorded.

From these ingredients almost infinitely variable by the controls of the sound-mixing console—the record producer can later manipulate inside a studio's control room, "tug" the sound he wants. He can experiment.

In pop music he is likely to try many variations, electronically manipulating the individual tracks until he achieves the best possible combination.

In classical music, the post-recording editing is more a question of choosing the best performances of the individual movements or passages (some of which may have been recorded perhaps a dozen times) which together go to make up the complete work.

Computer-assisted sound mixing systems have recently been introduced in which the memory and control resources of mini-computers are used to relieve the studio sound engineer of routine chores in the mixing process.

During the actual record-

process, a Rupert Neve system recently installed by Air Recording Studios, Oxford Street, London (and on order for EMI at Abbey Road) is claimed to be the most advanced of its type in the world.

When the desired combination is achieved, the 24-track tape is "mixed down" that is played back through the mixer desk and re-recorded onto a two-track stereo (or four-track quadraphonic) tape. This is the master tape from which the record will be produced.

At EMI's Abbey Road studios in London there are six disc-cutting rooms. Each contains a tape machine to play back the master tape, a mixer desk, and a precision cutting lathe.

The lathe has a turntable on which is placed a blank lacquered disc. As this rotates under the cutting head, a heated stylus begins to cut a spiralling groove in the disc. The stylus vibrates in response to electrical signals from the master tape, so that the groove is modulated—in effect, an image of the soundwaves from the tape is impressed on it.

The lacquer disc is held flat on the turntable by vacuum, and a vacuum method is used to take away the swarf (waste material) as the groove is cut. For a long-playing lacquer, the nickel shell The author is Tecumec, the centre of each stamp.

The master lacquer disc is then sent to the factory as the basis for the mass production of the record. Daily production at the EMI factory at Hayes, Middlesex, is 250,000 records, with a staff of 1,300 keeping 120 presses working 24 hours a day.

First, the master disc is cleaned and rinsed, and silver-coated so that it can be electroplated. Placed in a bath of nickel sulphamate solution through which an electric current passes, it is electroplated with a layer of nickel.

When separated from the bath, the nickel shell The author is Tecumec, the swarf, a strip forms a "negative" of the Correspondent, The Times.

Well taped

by William Mann

Quality is more important than quantity: only the greedy would dispute that.

But when you consider that the gramophone record is a century old, and if you are able to put on an original hill-and-dale record to celebrate the occasion or one of the Madson cylinder recordings, or something from HMV's present historical catalogue, it is astonishing to think that, notwithstanding almost every piece of music that anybody has the fancy to hear can be bought and played repeatedly.

Before 1877, indeed before 1855, a musical fanatic who wanted to hear and listen to all music then currently available might have travelled the globe and not heard the violin, Grieg and his wife performing songs at the piano; there is a legend of a record in which Wagner conducted a portion of the Tristan love duet. Postality must be grateful that these great artists of the past put their skill and attitude of mind into almost everyone's recordings.

In part, it is the record industry's own fault; some labels tend not to miss opportunities to publicise the bizarre or the shocking in their catalogues. But what was most newspaper column space or air-time only fractionally represents the meaning of the marriage between the gramophone and popular music.

In the blessed library of recorded sound, to use Allaire Cooke's phrase, it will not be Johnny Roten or Tiny Tim who are remembered by a future century.

Without the gramophone, the voice of Sinatra, the songs of Cole Porter, the infinite variety of Ellington, the symphonies of Yes would have remained only memories or sales more than 300 million

records. Some recorded performances of the 1930s still sound fine and have kept their place in the catalogue via transfer to LP.

The greater advance in gramophone recording was the ability to record on tape, at first up to 25 minutes at a time, then gradually much more, with the new possibility of tape-editing to correct tiny flaws. Mistakes and momentary weaknesses were at once rendered unnecessary, and the note-perfection of a record obliged musicians to raise standards in public performance too.

On the heels of tape came in about 1950 a consequent sky-rocketing of the musical repertory available on disc. Quantity was in the ascendant, though recorded performances of superb quality were also made (think only of the Callas-Gobbi Tosca conducted by De Sabata, still unsurpassed).

Conveniently in the mid-1950s, when the catalogue had begun to budge with music from all ages, came the cult of high fidelity, closely followed by stereophonic recording and a further long ago, music must be seen as well as heard, if it is to be fully appreciated.

Technology has promptly responded with Quadraphonic (horrid hybrid word, the correct formation is "tetraphonic") recording with sound conveyed from four speakers, behind as well as in front of the listener, as in the process was established.

TO R

through record companies have still not agreed on the process to be pursued. The possibility of seeing as well as hearing music through videotape recording is commercially imminent, already being marketed on a small, expensive scale.

Surely by now perfection has been attained, and the carefully made record like its more convenient equivalent of like quality must equal in quality the performance heard in public by an audience? Not always.

Record pressings are still available, with surface faults that add clicks and pops, and with unsuppressed surface tape noise.

Even if perfection were to arrive, in vision as well as sound, no record performance would replace the public "live" experience.

Every piece of music alters somehow, each time it is performed. When a recorded performance is heard a second time, it may still reach and enlighten, for many hearings to come; but after the first hearing it ceases to live, its momentary animation has become inanimate, a dead relic of the past. The story of Caruso's records.

The present decade, still aware that perfection has not been attained, is concentrating on two desiderata: music in a concert hall, or opera-house is experienced not only from in front but bounced towards us from side and back walls. And, as Stravinsky insisted long ago, music must be seen as well as heard, if it is to be fully appreciated.

Technology has promptly responded with Quadraphonic (horrid hybrid word, the correct formation is "tetraphonic") recording with sound conveyed from four speakers, behind as well as in front of the listener, as in the process was established.

The author is Music Critic, The Times.

Up their sleeves

by Bevis Hillier

A new breed of record collectors is growing: people who never listen to the discs they buy. They are collectors of record sleeves—an art form which is becoming to the 1970s what the psychedelic poster was to the 1960s. Some even specialize in the work of an individual sleeve artist such as Roger Dean or Patrick Woodroffe (born 1944 and 1940 respectively), on both of whom glossy and successful paperbacks have been issued.

The Swiss art magazine *Graphis* issued a booklet on record sleeves in 1974; and now the publishing company Dragon's World is about to publish an all-colour book on the history of record sleeves with a text by Dominy Hamilton, daughter of the pop artist Richard Hamilton. The book is edited by Storm Thorgerson, of Hipgnosis, designer of sleeves for Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Wings, and by Roger Dean, designer of sleeves for Yes, Osibisa and Uriah Heep. It is bound to give incentive to the sleeve-collecting cult.

The "incubulus" of recording were fragile, sold in rigid cardboard boxes lined with foil. The later Edison cylinders and "amberols" needed less reinforcement. The boxes that contained them generally had a standardized decoration—a few flourishes and a slogan.

As Miss Hamilton says: "There was little to distinguish these packages from those of, say, bars of soap."

Records, first of rubber, then of shellac compound, were originally sold with no protective covering. By 1910 they were sold in paper envelopes, but all the information was given on the record label. At their most venturesome, these sleeves carried advertisements for gramophone needles or elegant Sheraton-style storage cabinets. In 1911 Victor Records produced a sleeve showing an art nouveau woman floating out of a large phonograph horn. In the 1920s some companies introduced attractive sleeves showing bright young things quick-stepping or fox-trotting in the 1940s. Miles also designed sleeves for Cannibal John Adderley's *Something Else*.

A letter procedure is to prevent the dust getting on to the disc in the first place. Dust is attracted by static. The Zerostat anti-static pistol neutralizes static, without contact, in seconds.

Don't be a record collector yourself!

Zerostat is a record label distributor, write to Department T3P2, Zerostat Ltd., Edison Road, Industrial Estate, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.

Telephone St Ives (0480) 62225. Yes, the Zerostat pistol costs only £6.95 (including VAT).

Jacky McLean's Right Now, Herbie Hancock's My Point of View and the Kenny Burrell album *Midnight Blue*.

Most of these sleeves were by small, creative companies.

Columbia led the way among the big companies, especially after Bob Gruen joined the label as art director in 1959. Philip Hayes' illustrations for a series of Columbia sets, including Billie Holiday's *The Golden Years*, Charlie Christian's *Solo Flight* and Bessie Smith's *Nobody's Blues*, are sought after by the more ardent sleeveophiles.

But most of the record collectors regard these early sleeves as mere curiosities, belonging to pre-history. What they are after is the work of the late 1960s and early 1970s designers who have incorporated in their designs the visual phenomena of the period: Art Nouveau and Art Deco revivals, the fantasies of "psychedelic" art, the yearning and languor of nostalgia, sexual liberation, car-worship, the glorification of Rock.

Some of the designs suggest that their authors are in need of urgent psychiatric treatment; others, that they burnt out their minds

with "acid" in the days of dropouts, Haight-Ashbury and Flower Power. Others again are clearly mass-produced, with commercial exploitation, which at its slickest and most accurately directed, becomes an art-form in itself.

One of the sleeveophiles heroes is Rick Griffin, who used to draw comic books about surfing in a limited genre, one might feel before he began designing Orange County posters for Family Dog and sleeves for Grateful Dead.

Another is Patrick Woodroffe, whose career resembles that of pop star in that he is totally self-taught—with a little help from Hieronymus Bosch and Dalí; and he has been steadily projected to fame.

Locking through rough edges of the plates, Dominy Hamilton's book about record sleeves made me want to go out the next morning and buy an armful of sleeves from 1960s and earlier, laying them down like vintage wines. Most, and any other art form I can think of, these record sleeves are the "antiques" of the future".

for Meiji a group of British journalists in the early 1970s, the Japanese economic summit that Japanese officials, and their market, had agreed to trading.

Japan's economy, which had already begun to decline, was still strong, and its exports were growing rapidly. The Japanese government was determined to maintain its position in the world market, and its policies were successful.

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BONN AT ODDS WITH WASHINGTON

Relations between the United States and West Germany are now worse than they need be. This is a pity because they are vital to the western alliance. West Germany is the main front-line member of Nato and host to the main body of American troops in Europe. It is also the strongest member of the European Community, and is no longer as constrained as it once was by a feeling of guilt and insecurity deriving from the Nazi period. Without its willing cooperation for Nato is not much future for Nato - or for the Community.

The trouble started with Herr Schmidt's openly showing his preference for President Ford during the American election campaign. This would have been easy to forget, especially given Mr Carter's special concern for European relations, if other issues had not come from the two countries. The most contentious was Mr Carter's attempt to stop West Germany selling a complete nuclear fuel cycle to Brazil. Both sides handled the issue less than smoothly so that the essential issue of nuclear proliferation was obscured by mutual recriminations, with the new American Administration showing a lack of sensitivity and the Germans a sense of injured surprise as if they had had no warning, which was far from being the case. On top of this came unwelcome American pressures on Germany to reflate, and then Mr Carter's vigorous stand on human rights, which some Germans feared would undermine the entire fragile structure of détente.

None of these issues is insurmountable but it is easy to see why West Germans should be particularly concerned about the human rights issue. Détente for them has meant opening up a series of delicate arrangements with East Germany which have greatly increased human traffic between the two countries (mostly in terms of visits from west to east) and brought much smoother and safer communications with West Berlin. If east-west tensions were to revive to any serious extent these arrangements could be jeopardized. Ideological conflict would flare up, hard-liners would come to the fore in eastern Europe, western conduct would again become suspect, and every opposition group or inconvenient individual in eastern Europe would once again, as in the Stalin period, be branded as agent of the western conspiracy. In the end instability in eastern Europe could again provoke Soviet intervention or a wider breakdown. Does Mr Carter know what he is doing if asked: is an American President once again misjudging the limits of his power?

By no means all Germans share these fears. There is substantial support for Mr Carter's policy on both the left and the right, among Social Democrats and Christian Democrats, who (though often for different reasons) welcome the return of a moral element to American policy and the revival of domestic support for the President that this brings. However, the manner in which the policy is conducted is watched

with more direct concern in West Germany than in countries less close to the frontier.

The conclusion that needs to be drawn from this is that Europe must not allow the human rights issue to become an American monopoly. It would, indeed, be absurd to do so, for the sections of the Helsinki agreement which are now most often quoted in defence of human rights were inserted as a result of European pressure in the face of indifference and impatience on the part of Dr Kissinger who, until the last minute, found the entire Helsinki conference a tedious intrusion on bilateral relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. If he had his way the west would not have negotiated as stubbornly as it did and would have given away unnecessarily a series of points to the Russians.

Europeans have, therefore, earned their right to say in the matter by more than their geographical vulnerability. It would be a pity if they allowed inflexibility or pique prevent them exercising it. It would also be a pity if even within Europe the issues were to fall too much into the hands of right-wingers, many of whom also opposed the Helsinki conference, for this would play straight into the hands of those in eastern Europe who prefer conspiracy and cold war to genuine détente. If Herr Schmidt is seeking a bridge to Washington he might construct at least part of it on this issue, which after all is one where Social Democrats have both long experience and wide credibility.

NO WAY TO ROOT OUT TORTURE IN GREECE

Amnesty International's report on torture in Greece, published at the weekend, is different from the usual run of that organization's reports. For once, instead of drawing attention to horrors currently practised by one of the world's most numerous repressive regimes, Amnesty has set itself the more cheerful but no less important task of following the procedure by which oppressors have been brought to justice in a free society after their oppressive regime had fallen.

The report analyses in considerable detail the first of a number of trials of Greek torturers - the trial of fourteen officers and eighteen soldiers of the military police (ESA), held in August-September, 1975. It rightly regards this trial as having an international "exemplary" value because it "established a truth and proved a point: torture was practised by the Junta's military police on a systematic scale as a means to enforce authority, and torture can be punished by the ordinary criminal process". Greece and Portugal, it points out, are the only countries where torture trials have been held "on a somewhat sizable scale", and in Portugal only one torturer has so far received "anything approximating a serious sentence". The ESA trial, which ended with sixteen prison sentences including three of twenty years or more, is commended for meeting "high standards of jurisprudence" and for not being allowed to degenerate into a

show trial. The post-1974 Greek Government is also commanded to be "at the forefront of the movement to abolish torture through intergovernmental organizations and international law".

Amnesty regrets, however,

that the opportunity was missed to "pursue some of the broader questions concerning responsibility for torture". It also criticizes the authorities for failing to undertake "a thorough, centrally coordinated investigation of the Junta's system of torture" - instead of which they investigated only those cases that were first taken by plaintiffs to civilian courts. (Even of these, two thirds were dismissed by the courts on an absurd legal quibble for being filed one day too late: the three-month time limit fixed by the Government was interpreted as meaning three months of thirty days each, whereas two of the calendar months in question had thirty-one days.) As a result, many torturers have not been brought to justice at all, and a number even remain in the security police.

Moreover, the standards of the first trial were "not sustained in later trials", and Amnesty concludes that the Greek Government "for whatever reasons, has allowed the torturers, with a very small number of exemplary exceptions, to get off extremely lightly". It also criticizes the Government for failing to provide just compensation to torture

victims, and for failing to follow up the constitutional prohibition of torture by making it a specific criminal offence in the Penal Code (not of course with retrospective effect but to mark the seriousness of the offence for the future). These last omissions, at least, can still be rectified.

These observations are worrying because they suggest a certain reluctance on the part of the present Greek Government to root out all the causes and effects of the dictatorship. A purge of the judiciary now would hardly be the right answer, but undoubtedly a much firmer lead should have been given from the beginning by the Government and its legal officers.

But before we are too hard on the performance of the Greek authorities today we should remember our own of yesterday. For the Amnesty report also reminds us that with the honourable exception of the Scandinavians and Dutch, both West European and American Governments, though well informed about the practice of torture in Greece, failed to respond adequately to the appeals of Greek democrats for support and thus made themselves "the Junta's silent partners in violating human rights". Expressions of concern for human rights by governments have since become more fashionable, but the important thing is to give them practical effect in any way possible.

Consequently, high-paid and tax-exempt industrial workers, living in a kind of disciplined democratic freedom, simultaneously have all the benefits of an advanced consumer society along with the disadvantages of what western eyes must seem an abysmally low quality of environmental life. Densely populated cities contain hordes of poor housing that make a municipal housing estate in depressed Britain look like ducal riches; and some Labour MPs in our delegation were not alone in thinking that even middle-class areas of Tokyo would be regarded here as slum clearance sites. Then there is the extraordinary paradox of the low figure of industrial workers compared with the high figure of service workers, because advancing manufacturing technology increasingly finds workers dispensed with labour. Factories look almost empty of men: shops and hotels are ludicrously overmanned.

No doubt the Lockheed scandal still being played out as part of a July election campaign, has been the immediate cause of the Liberal Democratic Party's loss of parliamentary strength, and for the succession of the New Liberal Party. But young Japanese say that there is more to the breakup of Japan's political party structure than that. They see themselves being westernized as the higher technology and the consumer society alter their habits of mind; moreover, a Japan trading across the world produces new generations with standards of comparison their parents lacked. Therefore, it is not only the Lockheed scandal that is now producing political and social change, but also Japan's economic success. If so, Japanese trade aggression will increasingly, if discreetly, rile.

An advance party for Mrs Thatcher, led by Mr Dell, a group of economists, industrialists, and others fear protectionist retaliation in their western markets and a heretofore sincere enough when all signs of right voluntary agreements though the Japanese also cognize that it is only by trading that they can live.

Mr Fukuda, for example, is worried by the fear of a trade cession like that in the early 1930s when as a young civil servant the London Embassy he visited the Times office every night to alert the Asahi, Shimbun newspaper about the latest economic news. The quintupling of the cost of oil since 1973 also warned him of

David Wood

More than cherry blossom time in Tokyo

As Mrs Thatcher left Tokyo on Saturday afternoon, Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, flew in. In some ways they had the same mission. They both wanted to know what the Japanese Government will contribute to the London economic summit in May and both wanted to penetrate Japanese thinking on free and fair international trade.

For their part, Mr Fukuda, the Finance Minister, and the Government mounted a Chelsea Flower Show to welcome Mrs Thatcher to banqueting, rolled out the red carpet for Mr Dell, and tentatively explained that Japanese ports are not being unfairly impeded in the UK and other EEC countries, and that a system of voluntary agreements arrived at by government and industry ensures it. Japanese trade aggression will increasingly, if discreetly, rile.

An advance party for Mrs Thatcher, led by Mr Julian Ridsdale, accompanied by British journalists, was the parliamentary relay in London putting the exploratory discussions for the economic summit on. Like Mrs Thatcher, came to a broad conclusion that Japanese industries, and others, fear protectionist retaliation in their western markets and a heretofore sincere enough when all signs of right voluntary agreements though the Japanese also cognize that it is only by trading that they can live.

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Saving a sick steel industry

From Mr J. P. Safford

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Tim Renton, MP, discussing (on April 15) what he rightly calls the present "very nasty" situation of the world's steel industry, asks how long it will be before we learn the lesson that the longer we maintain uneconomic jobs in the wrong industries, the greater becomes the eventual unemployment.

My own punch which speaks for many of British steel-using industries, has already suggested, in concern about the effects of delays in the modernization of and the adoption of internationally competitive manning levels at the British Steel Corporation's plants, inter alia to the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries. Such delays can only affect adversely the BSC's ability to meet our members' future steel requirements at prices and in qualities which will not put them at a competitive disadvantage in world markets.

At the same time, we recognize the serious social problems with which the BSC and its trade unions are faced. It seems to us that there is no option but that the taxpayer should bear the costs of dealing with these problems if the adverse effects on our ability as a nation to create wealth are to be minimized.

This is not simply special pleading. In 1976 the exports of our steel-using industries were some £10,000m; those of iron and steel £200m. Our future prosperity as a nation depends in large measure upon the future competitiveness of our steel-using industries. If the Government's industrial strategy is really to help solve our economic problems it must surely be concerned with strengthening those industries, not with putting them at a competitive disadvantage in world markets (and so reducing their ability to provide employment) in order to finance the preservation of traditional jobs in the steel industry. Yours faithfully,

J. P. SAFFORD,
Director and Secretary,
British Iron and Steel Consumers' Council,
16 Berwya Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.

April 16.

Elderly travellers

From Miss Alison Norman

Sir, Lord Clark's letter on April 15, drawing attention to the difficulties faced by elderly people when travelling with heavy luggage, will certainly receive strong support from your readers. In our forthcoming book *Transport and the Elderly - Problems and Possible Action*, we suggest that British Rail should at least be able to find sufficient staff to post a porter by major barriers such as flights of stairs to assist over-burdened passengers up and down. A much more generous provision of luggage trolleys would also be useful.

However, there is also a case for more general use of personal luggage trolleys and it would be most helpful if the Consumers Association would do a thorough test of those on the market so that the convenient, weighty, durable, etc., of the various models can be thoroughly assessed.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON NORMAN,
Assistant Secretary,
The National Corporation for the
Care of Old People
Nuffield Lodge,
Regent's Park, NW1

April 15.

Mother's occupation?

From Mr D. G. Cook

Sir, I have in my interests in your correspondence and agree with Mr Nugent (April 8) that a mother's occupation is often just as relevant as a father's and can be more so. I can assure Mr. Bolingbroke (April 13) that the reason why employers ask about parents' occupations is nothing to do with placing a family in a socio-economic group; nor does it derive, as the Reverend John Beckwith (April 14) suggests, from a longstanding but outmoded tradition.

The science or art of selection is by no means easy. It is a form of forecasting and is based to some extent on the evidence of the past and also on an assessment of potential. It is therefore vital to collect as much factual information about the candidate as possible. There are many ways of doing this and an application form can be part of the game. Many questions can be asked, and answers on an application form and these in turn can be developed and augmented by a skillful interviewer. It is useful amongst other things, to try to establish from whence a person gets his or her ideas and interests and the clue is sometimes found in family background regardless of socio-economic group.

If I may end on a lighter vein, a classical scholar once recorded his father's occupation as "in loco parentis", which of course everybody knows means "my father is an engine driver". Yours faithfully,

DONALD COOK, Chairman,
The Standing Conference of
Employers of Graduates,
Derby House,
Cheshunt.

April 14.

Byron's remains

From Mr Stelios Hourmouzios

Sir, As a Greek, I am appalled by the revolting details with which we are once again being regaled concerning various parts of Lord Byron's anatomy. What possible relevance or importance can anyone find in the disposal or "present whereabouts" of Byron's heart or his lungs? What difference does it make to anybody whether a respectable containing a purified organ should be located in this country or that?

It is not for his entrails that Byron is remembered but for his spirit and his poetic soul - and you will not find those in a pickling jar.

I remain, Sir, yours disinterestedly,
STELIOS HOURMOUZIOS,
Savile Club,
89 Brook Street, WI

April 15.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Elections to the European Parliament

From Lord Chelwood

Sir, If, as you state, it is true that most Conservative MPs and a majority in the Shadow Cabinet favour the "first past the post" system for direct elections to the European Parliament, it is surprising. This does not appear to reflect opinion in this country, to judge from the poll carried out by the Opinion Research Centre which you reported on April 6. The only merit I can see in the present system is that it is simple and familiar, but that is no reason for sticking to it if a better alternative can be found.

A system involving proportional representation on a regional list would have at least four points in its favour:

1. It is, too, simple.
2. It is much fairer to the political parties and to the individual candidates.
3. There is time to organize it before May, 1978.
4. It would be a step towards our commitment under the Treaty of Rome to "direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure for all member States", which is bound to contain a major element of PR.

To support the present system because the Tory Party could expect to gain a short-term advantage in the majority in the country would be unworthy, and rightly condemned by the electorate, but it would court this accusation however undeserved. Those who oppose any form of PR because it might "create a precedent for national elections" are tacitly admitting that it could prove so popular that the demand for some kind of electoral reform, already growing in all parties, became irresistible. The European Parliament will be elected by PR in all the other countries of the Nine; and if it is not so in this country, the probable result will be that the Labour Party will get very few of the 81 seats and the Liberals none at all. As everyone knows that at the last general election the Liberals obtained a very sizable minority of the votes cast and Labour half the balance, such a result would patently illustrate to all the world how farcically undemocratic our system is.

It is clear from the debate on Tuesday on the White Paper that a majority can only be obtained for a system including some form of PR. I cannot believe that any Conservative, apart from the tiny number still loath to wrecking the EEC or pulling out of it, would deliberately hamper the progress of the subsequent legislation. To do so would be quite inconsistent with the spirit in which, as a Party, we fought such a hard and successful battle, in and out of Parliament, to join the Community, and our determination to further its objectives.

Yours sincerely,
GILBERT LONGDON,
88 Cornwall Gardens, SW7.
April 14.

Liberals and abortion
From Mr Alan Beith, MP for Berwick upon Tweed (Liberal)

Sir, I would not wish Lord Windham's expression of his personal views on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill in *The Times* (article, April 11) to give rise to any misunderstanding. The Bill features neither explicitly nor implicitly in the agreement between the Liberal Party and the Government, the full contents of which have been published. It has not been the subject of any consultation between the Liberal Party and the Government, and is not likely to be. It is a private member's Bill, which some Liberal MPs support and others oppose. If the question of providing Government time for the Bill arises, Liberal members - like members of the Government - will no doubt take different views. The existence of the agreement in no way prejudices that decision.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ALAN BEITH,
House of Commons.

April 15.

Devolution Bill

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, In his article (*The Times*, April 12), Lord Cross-Hanham appears to underestimate the crucial importance of the English dimension to the success of the Devolution Bill. But I wonder if it is enough to say, as he does, that "the Government must make it clear that something analogous to a Welsh model of devolution will eventually be available to the English regions". This will hardly serve to assuage the pressing anxieties of those living in the north-west in Yorkshire and in Humberside.

If a constitutional settlement is not to offend Scotland advantages of kind denied to England, the gain to Scotland through a legislative assembly must be counterbalanced by a reduction in the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster. It is only in this way that the northern regions can hope to maintain an equitable degree of bargaining power vis-à-vis central government.

There is only one method of devolving power to Scotland which will favour a package of this kind, and that is to hold a consultative referendum in Scotland, asking the Scots whether they wish to accept the status of a provincial unit in a federal state, i.e. the constitutional status of Northern Ireland under the Stormont regime.

I do not either know to what use the Isle of Skye Island is put but I might be bold to "suggest" it as a suitable location for a Wild Peony Reserve.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BOGDANOR,
Erasmus College,
Oxford.

April 14.

Regional airports

From Mr R. MacDonald-Hall

Sir, With reference to the correspondence in your columns concerning the increasing pressure on London airports, surely the simple answer is to bring the aircraft to the public and not try to convey the public to the limited number of airports or excessive number of aircraft currently using them.

Regional airports must surely take the regional traffic and foreign airfares must be encouraged, on a quota system, to use the regional airports if they wish to continue to use Heathrow.

Surely that puts Maglin where it correctly belongs - as a haven for the wildfowl.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD PARKER,
15 Duke Street Mansions,
Covent Garden, WC2.

April 14.

Paw-paw cure
From Mr Richard Parker

Sir, Before the entire supply of paw-paws in this country has been monopolized by seekers of a Jean-Paul miracle cure of infectious wounds than sinatura of iodine, I think you should inform your readers that the active enzyme in paw-paw fruit, papain, has been a

R KIRK
leader in
parliament

Bond sales
encourage
whom?
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Companies Act
could affect
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Wellhead price of Alaskan oil to have upper limit of \$7 a barrel

From Our United States Economics Correspondent Washington, April 17

First wellhead prices of Alaskan North Slope oil in which BP is a big participant will not be permitted to be above about \$7 a barrel, and could well be substantially below this amount, according to a Federal Energy Administration (FEA) report to Congress.

In a summary of the report, the FEA says that several different methods of setting Alaskan oil prices are under consideration. No decision has been made, but informed sources said that President Carter was believed to favour a system leaving the United States market price of Alaskan oil below that of imported oil.

However, producers of Alaskan oil might be able to obtain a slightly higher price by being allowed to export about one-third of their output. The report, which will be officially released tomorrow, confirms that former President Ford's ban on exports of Alaskan oil has been overturned and that the Administration is investigating the merits of exchanging Alaskan North Slope crude with Japan for Persian Gulf crude delivered to the United States gulf and east coasts.

The remaining 400,000 barrels a day would be shipped to the Gulf coast or, under four scenarios in the report, exchanged with Japan for Persian light crude.

The price received by the producers of this oil will be determined partly by how the Government allows the oil to be shipped and whether this oil can be exchanged with Japan or it goes to other parts of the United States.

Saudis seek Opec accord

Kuwait, April 17—Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia has strongly indicated that his country favours a uniform world price for oil to replace the two-tier pricing system splitting the world oil cartels, the newspaper Al-Siyasa reported yesterday.

"Saudi Arabia welcomes any constructive dialogue by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries," Crown Prince Fahd is quoted as saying. "We hope that solution will be concluded in such way that serves the welfare of Opec states as well as all consumers, particularly the developing countries."

Continued from page 1

The "safety net" was pressed by Dr Henry Kissinger when he was United States Secretary of State. It would provide a means of lending to countries within the 24-nation OECD when they have no other sources of finance. It would provide a kind of last resort insurance policy and be used only under strict conditions.

Criticism of the suggestion that the new fund facility should replace the OECD scheme is made more intense by the fact that it was the Americans who originally pushed the scheme on a somewhat reluctant Western community in 1973, but have since cooled because of congressional opposition. Of the 24 OECD members, only two—the United States and Luxembourg—have taken effective action to ratify the scheme. But the United States alone is important enough to stop the system coming into effect.

At yesterday's Group of Ten meeting Mr Fred Bernstein, the United States Treasury delegate, put up strong defence of the American position and said there was no possibility of Congress agreeing to both the OECD scheme and the Witteveen plan for the IMF. He also argued that it would be wrong to implement the OECD "safety net" since this would detract from the central role of the Fund in the world monetary system.

However, many countries were not impressed by this argument. The Japanese seem to have been particularly fierce, saying that there was no possibility of all of their participating in any expansion of IMF facility unless the existing institutions—the "safety net"—were first brought into effect.

The Japanese have particular cause for bitterness about this

because they tend to follow the American lead, and agreed to ratify the OECD system only under pressure from the United States, which they now find has changed its policy with the change of Administration.

Japan also points out that the idea of an IMF facility which would lend fairly heavily to countries in payments difficulty would shift much of the burden of responsibility for checking a country's creditworthiness from the commercial market (where about three-quarters of the borrowing is done) to official institutions. This raises a host of doubts about whether the Witteveen scheme might not be giving too much to the Saudi Arabian oil in an effort to get their support.

Critics of the proposed Witteveen system say that it would essentially provide the oil-producers with a risk-free investment at very attractive rates, rather than forcing them to do serious work to ensure that a country can afford to borrow.

The critics further point out that in their view the Witteveen proposal mixes some quite separate problems which ought to be dealt with separately. The 14,000m SDR figure seems to have been arrived at by adding all the deficits of IMF members during 1976. But it is argued that a significant part of these deficits could be financed by normal market forces.

What is necessary, critics of the initial Witteveen plan say, is to have increased resources for the IMF to finance genuine balance of payments problems but to separate the "insurance" element for countries needing to go to a leader of last resort. If this were done, it is argued, about \$7,000m more for the IMF, coupled with OECD ratification of the "safety net", would suffice.

Everyone agrees that there should be, in the longer term, a significant increase in the

\$530m IMF loan for Italy on four conditions

From David Blake
Economics Correspondent

Paris, April 17

Nine of the world's richest industrial nations agreed yesterday to raise \$530m (about £310m) to finance a loan from the International Monetary Fund to Italy.

Pledges made by the Italian Government have provoked criticism from unions in the country. But Mr Alan Whitton, who negotiated on behalf of the IMF and who also led the team which sorted out the British loan last year, expressed confidence that the Government in Rome had a sufficient understanding with unions and opposition parties to be able to deliver its side of the bargain.

Italy's money is to be provided by the General Arrangement to Borrow, which is run by the Group of Ten. Contributions, all expressed in special drawing rights each of which is worth about \$1.5m, are: Belgium 16m, Canada 16m, Germany 82.5m, France 35m, Japan 62m, The Netherlands 20m, Sweden 8m, United States 98m, Switzerland 37.5m and the IMF itself 75m.

The IMF contribution will be made towards the end of the period of the loan, which will be phased between now and 1978 in three steps. The first drawing will be made by the end of 1977, the second by July, 1978, and the third by December, 1978.

There are four main "performance clauses" which the Italians have agreed to respect. They are pledged to limit the public sector deficit, to restrict the growth of the money supply, to introduce no trade restrictions and to bring down the rate of inflation at an agreed pace.

Money has been raised for the Indians through the GAB, as it is known, because the IMF is fairly short of money. The IMF has the equivalent of about \$4,000m in its coffers and is expecting heavy demands from many countries in the developing world in the coming months.

Because of this, it is keen to use the GAB whenever it can to meet the needs of countries who are members of the Group of Ten. The special GAB arrangement is available only to countries in the group.

Oil platform agreement: Mr Ross Dell, managing director of Scott Lithgow, the Clyde ship builders, announced yesterday an agreement with Deep Oil Technology, a Californian company, to market a so-called tension leg offshore platform. This is a structure anchored to the bed of the ocean.

He described the agreement as a significant step forward in the company's attempts to find suitable alternative work for the company's large fabrication facilities at Port Glasgow.

Deep Oil Technology, part of the Fluor Corporation of America, has already built a one-third scale model of its tea-

son leg platform which has been used for experiments off the Californian coast.

Scott Lithgow has applied to the European Economic Commission for financial aid to transport the platform to the Clyde for further experimental and research work.

The Deep Oil agreement is part of an increasing diversification by Scott Lithgow into the offshore oil market. The company is already collaborating with Compagnie Française d'Enterprises Métalliques in the development and marketing of a steel gravity base production platform for the British sector of the North Sea.

Fresh evidence on profit margins ready for Mr Hattersley

Inquiry likely into footwear retailing

By Derek Harris

New evidence on profit margins of retailers in footwear is expected to go shortly to Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

It is likely to lead to Mr Hattersley calling for an investigation into the whole sector for footwear distribution as soon as the new powers of the Price Commission Bill passing through Parliament.

British Shoe has been under particular study by the Office for a considerable period, and evidence is still being gathered.

But it has become increasingly unlikely that Mr Gordon Morris, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, would refer the sector to the Monopolies Commission. Considerable evidence on retail margins is expected to be included in the report.

The report draws attention to the increasing imports into the United Kingdom market of foreign imports, some of them savagely undercutting domestic production at the wholesale price level. British manufacturers have been complaining of such footwear being landed at prices which allow retailers mark-ups of between 70 and 300 per cent.

If this is true, much of the benefit to consumers of cheap foreign imports is being denied the public.

A copy of the steering group report is expected to be passed to Mr Hattersley for considera-

tion with the separate investigations into footwear retailing by the Office of Fair Trading.

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tion with the separate investigations into footwear retailing by the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Michael Blumenthal, the United States Secretary of the Treasury, favours the creation of new government institutions to provide financial assistance to depressed cities and industries.

He wants to see more business management techniques used in government, possibly even bonus schemes for civil servants. He fully supports present efforts to strengthen the resources of the International Monetary Fund.

These were some of the points made by the new Treasury chief and former Bendix Corporation chairman at an unusually relaxed meeting with a small group of journalists one evening last week.

The meeting was indeed unusual, because Mr Blumenthal gave no hint of crisis as he sat back in his shirt-sleeves, sipping whisky and water, puffed at a large cigar and discussed a wide variety of subjects.

At one point he did absent himself for a few minutes to go across the road to the White House; but it was only two hours later that the group of reporters learned that Mr Blumenthal had that night been instrumental in persuading President Carter to cut his 1977 economic stimulus programme and withdraw his \$11,000 cash tax rebate proposal.

The rebates were discussed by Mr Blumenthal with the journalists and the Administration's views are now well known. But a number of other important topics raised are perhaps of even greater importance for the long-term success of the Carter Administration.

New York and numerous other cities, for example, still face grave financial problems, whose persistence is a constant source of nervousness in the American financial community.

Mr Blumenthal said that all aspects of America's urban problems are being discussed at a special cabinet-level committee.

The President is likely to make some specific proposals in due course. At present, the Treasury is studying the extent to which the problems of big industrial urban areas have common features, the degree to which those problems can be resolved by local authorities, through better administration, for example, and the need, if any, for the Federal Government to provide direct assistance to the cities.

The Treasury Secretary said he believed that there might be a role for the Government to support new projects and spur new investment in the cities. An urban bank might be considered that could use the World Bank as a model—an institution that had initiated projects which the private sector might not have undertaken alone and which had actually become paying propositions over time.

Mr Blumenthal said that the options a president faced in making foreign trade decisions were possibly too limited. They could either do nothing to help a weak domestic industry, or they could merely provide protection from foreign competition that by no means ensured the domestic industry's revival.

"Protectionism is not constructive, and just handing out money to weak industries isn't constructive either," he asserted.

He suggested that it might be an idea for the Government to provide special assistance through some form of industry bank that financed new companies and other types of modern business technology—for structurally weak industries, suffering particularly from foreign competition.

Finally, with regard to the forthcoming energy programme, he rejected the suggestion that it would force hardship on business and individuals.

He said that as a former businessman he knew business threw on change. As an individual he would continue to drive a Cadillac—admittedly a fuel-efficient one, he claimed, with fuel injection equipment produced, no doubt, by the Bendix Corporation!

Frank Vogl

NEB must decide tomorrow whether to continue its controversial tanning rescue

By Our Commercial Editor

The National Enterprise Board has to decide by tomorrow night whether to back out of a £3m support deal for the tanning interests of the Barrow Hepburn Group.

Lord Ryder, the NEB chairman, is still considering legal advice over the threat of legal action against NEB by a group of leading United Kingdom tanners.

The group, which represents almost three-quarters of the tanning industry, has threatened action unless the NEB abandons the proposals or satisfies the group it was acting within its guidelines.

It will be surprising if Lord Ryder scraps the plans. He had satisfied himself that the NEB's investment was likely to yield a proper return—as specified in the guidelines—and that it would be the benefit of the United Kingdom tanners.

NEB has reached agreement to buy half the equity for £500,000, which according to the vendors represents a 60 per cent discount on the net asset value.

Mr Richard Odey, chief executive of Barrow Hepburn, feels that the NEB on these terms could expect a commercial return. "We could probably give them a 20 per cent return on capital," Mr Odey said.

The deal could lay the foundations for expansion of British Tanner's Products according to Mr Odey. Barrow Hepburn had been unwilling to meet the growing capital requirements of its tanning businesses out of its own resources because as a group it had to look generally to a capital return of at least 23 per cent.

Part of the deal is an injection of £2.5m by NEB in loan capital. Barrow Hepburn is guaranteeing the interest on the loan to a maximum value of £2m.

The group of tanners, which includes 16 leading companies, claims the NEB proposals favour Barrow Hepburn to the detriment of the rest of the tanning

industry, and maintain the NEB would not be able to obtain a reasonable return on capital.

It fears the deal would bring redundancies elsewhere in the industry. If Barrow Hepburn had run down its tanning activities in Britain—a factor the NEB had to take into account—about 2,000 jobs were at risk.

But the plan could bring redundancies elsewhere in the industry of up to 3,000, according to Mr Michael Grylls, Conservative MP for North-West Surrey, who is vice-chairman of the Opposition industry committee. This is 25 per cent of the industry's total workforce.

Mr Grylls last night called on Lord Ryder to set the plan on one side until the possible effects on the whole tanning industry could be studied by the NEB and also the Department of Industry.

A criticism by the group of tanners is that the agreement with NEB and the setting up of British Tanners would result in the repayment of £8.4m to Barrow Hepburn from its tanning companies.

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Lending rate 9pc

The Bank of England's mini-

mum lending rate is being

reduced 1 percentage point this

week, to 9 per cent. The

following are the results of

Friday's Treasury Bill Tender:

Applications 2,971,500

Allocated 2,000,000

Received 2,000,000

Prev week 2,000,000

Ave rate 9.57% 9.57%

Prev week 9.57% 9.57%

Next

MANAGEMENT

Edited by Rodney Cowton

The third in a series of case studies describing the circumstances leading to the loss of a job

'Last in first out' is a good guide

The Case

Sheamus O'Donnell was employed as a foreman at the Brightside Engineering Works in East London.

He joined the company in April 1968 as a production worker and was promoted to the position of foreman exactly one year later. There were 13 other foremen of equivalent status to O'Donnell employed to supervise production activities at the Brightside works.

In December 1975 the company had to introduce redundancies due to a significant drop in business activity. Transfers to other work had not been found to be possible.

Sixteen shop floor employees were made redundant in accordance with a procedure based on "last in first out" which had been negotiated with the appropriate trade unions. Six foremen lost their jobs at the same time. None of the foremen was a trade unionist, there was no established company procedure for redundancy.

Dismissal and the law

by Geoff Smith

The characters and the company described are fictitious and do not represent any person or organization in real life.

cies in their case and nor was there a customary practice since redundancies had not occurred at this level before. Two months' warning of the impending redundancies had been given.

O'Donnell was one of the six foremen made redundant. The production manager, Mr Joseph Chapman, wrote an annual descriptive assessment of each foreman's performance. Interviews were then held so that appraisals could be disclosed and to give the foremen an opportunity to make their own observations. The purpose of the scheme was to encourage foremen to improve

their performance if necessary and to record evidence of potentiality for promotion.

The six foremen who were made redundant were told by the production manager that they had been chosen because their latest appraisal reports showed that their performance was less satisfactory than the other eight.

O'Donnell was highly regarded on the technical aspects of his work but one particular criticism featured on his appraisal form. It was: "He is too inflexible with his employees. He is a strong disciplinarian which in some ways is a good thing, but it has resulted in an over-strict interpretation of rules which has led on some occasions to difficult relationships with the men."

O'Donnell claimed that he had been unfairly dismissed. Conciliation was resisted by the employer who insisted that this was a straight forward case of redundancy.

Would the tribunal have found fair or unfair dismissal in this case?

sible by such means as transfer to other work or short-time working; and in the event of redundancies becoming necessary, as long as warning as possible, voluntary redundancy is feasible and a clear procedure on order of discharge.

On the whole the principle of "last in first out" appears to be a sound one for an employer to follow. There have been occasions, however, where departures from such a procedure have been acceptable. It is for the employer to satisfy a tribunal that there are good reasons why selection on the basis of ability, performance or willingness to be mobile, for example, should outweigh "last in first out".

In *Norton v. Chemidus* Wavrin, 1975, Norton was made redundant from his post as foreman on the criterion of "least productive". The Newcastle tribunal said: "The company takes the view, as does one member of the tribunal, that it was entitled to have regard to the welfare of the company and to select for redundancies those members of the staff whom they regard as least productive. But this contention appears to be in con-

flict with the paragraphs 45 and 46 in the code of practice.

"Clearly the intention of the code is to encourage employers to work out beforehand with their employees how a selection for redundancy shall be made. Among the matters suggested are schemes for voluntary redundancy. In paragraph 46(3) of the code it recommends that employers should establish which employees are to be made redundant and the order of discharge. This is to be done in consultation with the employees. It is well known that in many companies trade union representatives on all redundancies wherever a union is recognized. The obligation for the employer to consult covers all employees in the groups for which the union bargains. However, this provision would not have applied to the O'Donnell case since it was not in force at the time and in any case the foremen were not covered by a collective agreement with a trade union.

The author is a member of the academic staff of Ashridge Management College.

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Checklist on new Act for company secretaries

The 1976 Companies Act tinkers with the present system of company law and rather than radically reforming it has arrived on the statute book with little fuss and less interest.

But with its major provisions coming into effect today company secretaries are faced with new duties which should they be missed, could mean severe penalties for their directors and inconvenience, if not ignominy for their companies.

For although the changes made are relatively minor they go some way to tidy up some of the more prevalent abuses. It should, for instance, speed up the reporting of results to the Registrar of Companies and their subsequent filing at Companies House, and should, technically, make it more difficult to "warehouse" shares.

How far the Act will improve the system, in practice, is impossible to say, and there are enough cynics who will claim that the changes are a mere cosmetic allowing the real villains to escape detection.

But the Act does require greater disclosure which is almost universally welcomed as a step in the right direction, and there should be nuggets of valuable information available both to companies and shareholders which were not available before.

Arguably the most far-reaching changes involve disclosure of shareholdings. All the following could require action by company secretaries.

1. Anyone holding between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of a quoted company's votes will have 14 days in which to inform the company of its holding. Previously only 10 per cent holdings were deductible.

2. Anyon holding a 10 per cent holding will have only five days in which to report instead of the previous 14 days, and new holdings of 5 per cent will also have to be reported within 14 days.

3. Directors will have only five days in which to notify a company of dealings in its shares against the previous 14.

4. Companies will be able to uncover the true owners of shares in nominees' names. This is perhaps the most far-reaching of the changes in the 1976 Act.

When a company receives any information under this section, an entry must be made in a separate part of its share register with both the date when the request was made and the information received. So far there is no requirement to pass this information on to the Stock Exchange, but any search of a register could reveal takeover ambitions at an early stage.

In all these cases immediate notification must be made to the Stock Exchange under its amended rules.

Stockbrokers, excluded from the need to reveal trading holdings of more than 5 per cent, are nervous of the effect of the accelerated declaration of directors' dealings, which might occur before they have been able to resell their holdings.

The cause of greatest embarrassment to a company, however, could be failure to notify the registrar of its accounting reference date. From March 1 the registrar has been sending letters to 700,000 companies informing them that they must fix an accounting reference date which will be within seven days of the year end, although the year may be between 50 and 54 weeks long. Secretaries therefore must:

1. Fix the date by October 1 or the registrar will deem their accounting reference date to be March 31.

2. File their accounts with the registrar within 10 months of the reference date if a private company, seven months if a public company.

The intention, as the registrar points out in his letter, is to remedy the failure of large numbers of companies to file on time and the difficulties of enforcing the old provisions.

More stringent rules for the keeping of accounts also come into effect on October 1. Under the 1976 Act, accounts must disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of a company at any time.

Secretaries must prepare statements of stock held at the end of each financial year and statements of stocktaking, except for retail sales statements of all goods sold and purchased, giving the identification of buyers and sellers.

Day by day entries of all money received and spent must be kept and so must a day by day record of assets and liabilities.

There are new rules too for the appointment of auditors. The qualifications for accountants who can act as auditors are now defined under the Act and auditors must be appointed once a year.

Accountants, who can be auditors, must be members of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland, The Association of Certified Accountants, or the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

An auditor may resign, but if he does so, must report his reason to shareholders while stringent regulations relating to the removal of an auditor during his term of office are introduced.

It is perhaps worth pointing out that from June 1, anyone who is a persistent defaulter in delivering documents to the registrar may be disqualified by the High Court from acting as director of a company, or even from being a manager within a company.

Mr Tim Gold Blyth, a director of Argus Press and chief executive of its magazine division, has been made chairman of Illustrated Publications, Model & Allied Publications, Industrial Newsprints, Arasus Books, and Polyvalve Publications.

Nicholas Hirst

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Evidence required on the status of engineers

From Mr David F. Heathfield

Sir, Sir Harold Wilson is quoted in *The Times* of March 29 as saying that "science was a Cinderella subject in the Department of Education". There have been a number of similar statements about the role and status of scientists, technologists and engineers in this country, and one wonders how long they will continue without someone actually providing evidence to support them.

The level of financial support by government and by industry for scientific research (excluding defence) is far and away the highest of all disciplines. The Cinderella here is social science which attracts only tiny fractions of the grants offered to science. This despite the oft-acknowledged view that the principal problems facing us (inflation, low growth, unemployment, depreciation and violence) are of a political, economic and sociological nature rather than a scientific or engineering one.

We are told that there is a shortage of engineers and at the same time that they are comparatively poorly paid. It is hard to see how both these state-

ments can be true since, in the absence of rationing, storage is recognized by and results in price increases. This is as much true of engineers as it is of coffee, tea and deep-sea divers.

We are told that engineers are not highly regarded in this country and it was recently suggested that we spend millions of pounds on "Teaching Companies" akin to Teaching Hospitals. It is as if by aping the language of the medical profession, engineers will become equally highly regarded.

Few will doubt the importance of engineers and scientists to our community and it is common practice in big business, surely, that would only be logical and fair that the same period should be allowed for the payment of excise duties. At least this would obviate the need for excessive overdrain which many small firms can ill afford.

Our entry into the EEC may make it difficult to have preferential excise duties for British wine growers; however, I hope that, in due course, the efforts to provide the state with such a relatively large sum from a small area of land will be appropriately acknowledged, and that they will receive treatment similar to that already enjoyed by their colleagues on the Continent where the tax is infinitesimal. I would add that under these difficult circumstances our local excise officer has always been most helpful.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID F. HEATHFIELD.

Department of Economics

The University,

Southampton SO9 5NH

Allow more time to pay wine duties

From Major-General Sir G.

Sir, The difficulties and lack

of encouragement confronting the small businessman are well exemplified by the case of the British wine grower. In a good year a five-acre vineyard can contribute an amount of £12,000 in excise duties to the Treasury.

Whereas these duties have a be paid when the wine leaves the premises, some of the biggest clients take up to three months to settle their accounts. If, as I am informed, this is common practice in big business, surely, it would only be logical and fair that the same period should be allowed for the payment of excise duties.

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Yours faithfully,

GEOFF SALISBURY-JONES,

President, English Vineyards

Association,

Milford Down,

Hambledon,

Poole,

Hampshire, PO7 6RY.

Coal to fill energy gap

From Mr J. H. Goodland

Sir, The dramatic title of Dr McDonald's article ("A chance to settle the future of coal once and for all," April 11) belies the content.

The author seems to pose two questions: do we need more coal? Should the development of new coalfields in rural areas be permitted?

There seems to be little doubt that before the end of the century our indigenous reserves of oil and natural gas will be running out, and the world resources will have become scarce and precious. There are increasing doubts as to the availability of uranium and the environmental safety of the fast breeder reactor.

Yours faithfully,

R. C. SMITH, Chairman,

Federation of Engineering

Design Companies Limited,

156 London Road,

Mitcham, CR4 3LD.

Bury: a powerhouse of commerce within decade

From Mr D. Gough

Sir, Mr Shakespeare's article ("Bury's bread more than Lancashire's thread" (*The Times*, March 3)) was imaginative and informative, but omitted one or two important points which would give your readers a complete view of Bury.

Bury is the fastest growing district in the North West and third fastest-growing in the United Kingdom. The "forest" of chimneys is, in fact, a few old mills chimneys built along the river course in a semi-rural environment. Few of them are still smoking, and these mills are now beginning to interest the old provisions.

The intention, as the registrar points out in his letter, is to remedy the failure of large numbers of companies to file on time and the difficulties of enforcing the old provisions.

More stringent rules for the keeping of accounts also come into effect on October 1. Under the 1976 Act, accounts must disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of a company at any time.

Secretaries must prepare statements of stock held at the end of each financial year and statements of stocktaking, except for retail sales statements of all goods sold and purchased, giving the identification of buyers and sellers.

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It is perhaps worth pointing out that from June 1, anyone who is a persistent defaulter in delivering documents to the registrar may be disqualified by the High Court from acting as director of a company, or even from being a manager within a company.

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Nicholas Hirst

Knowledge link

From Mr A. E. Brewer

Sir, Mr E. T. C. Vincent (April 12) is right to demand full disclosure on the subject of index-linked quasi-state pensions: he is however, unlikely to get it if only because there is no one authority responsible for all the organizations concerned.

However, we can pool our knowledge, such as it may be, and if I may contribute my quote:

Index-linked pensions are provided by:

British Airways

London Transport

I believe that in the past 12 months London Transport has increased pensions by a little over 16 per cent.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN BREWER,

154, Evelyn Avenue,

Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8AA.

derable private house building to anticipate their arrival. The new citizens also need more industry and commerce. So the council has found areas where enterprise from the very small to the very large can be accommodated in pleasant surroundings.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Dunlop climbs back to blue chip status



Sir Rezy Geddes, chairman of Dunlop: strong drive from overseas.

Investors may not have fully recognized it yet but in spite of continuing labour troubles the United Kingdom motor industry is convalescing well from its post-oil crisis illness. Car registrations rose almost a tenth in 1976 last year and despite the latest Budget handicap registrations this year could get back to early 1970 levels.

The brighter undertone has already started to show through in results from some of the component manufacturers with Wilmot Breeden, Automotive Products and Smiths Industries all producing better than expected figures last week.

Meanwhile, at the sharp end of the market, where stiff competition is still causing a brake on margins, Dunlop is due to report full year results on Tuesday. The group has been going through a voluntary period of reassessment in the wake of the Pirelli link-up, and its future now depends more promisingly on cables, hose products, sports goods as well as the higher margin replacement tyre market.

Full year pre-tax profits of £75m have been fairly well signalled in the market. Yet there could be some mild disappointment at the attributable level where the tax charge is likely to be still around the 35 per cent mark with losses in Germany offsetting the £15m turnaround in France.

Minorities, too, will be higher thanks to the strong performance overseas in Malaysia and South Africa. So around £19.25m at the attributable level is all that can be expected against £15m last time for earnings of 15p a share. Even so, the prospective p/e ratio of 53 at 10p is holding no hostage to fortune.

Yet the trading performance is likely to prove secondary to the dividend announcement where Dunlop has scope to return to the 5p a share gross of 1975/76 at the attributable level is all that can be expected against £15m last time for earnings of 15p a share. Even so, the prospective p/e ratio of 53 at 10p is holding no hostage to fortune.

Brewers

Regional attractions

There will be more than usual interest in the smaller regional brewers over the next couple of weeks as that is all the breathing space the major brewing groups have before they need to disclose their shareholdings of more than 5 per cent under the new Companies Act.

Exactly what these will show and what construction the market will place on such revelations is guesswork at the moment but it is widely assumed that the major brewers have a fair sprinkling of stakes in the smaller groups either on purely investment grounds or more probably as hangovers from the merger days of the early 1970s.

Outside the big five brewers a good deal of interest will also centre on what Northern Foods discloses since this group has already said it has designs on further beer outlets in the north and caused some speculation last year when it declared a 12 per cent stake in Tollemeche and Cobbold. Indeed, it may even reveal more details that Northern Foods would like to build up, perhaps with Vaux or Gresley Whitley, a northern brewing grouping to rival the majors.

Yet there has been precious little volume to underpin price movements and most industry observers are frankly sceptical of much further rationalization in the drinks sector outside the distillers where stock financing problems are causing major headaches for the independent.

Certainly, money market rates on Friday were moving in a direction to suggest that the clearers will have little choice in the matter unless they want to see their already sparse industrial and commercial borrowers climbing still further as they take their business elsewhere.

But if there is room still for the clearers to follow the market, opinion is now hardening against the view that there is much room for rates in the market itself to move downwards.

Last week's indication that the rate of inflation is again accelerating underlines earlier fears that an acceptable phase three

major group would lose the very identity on which their success is at present based.

In any case many of the regions like Tollemeche and Greens King are selling on premium ratings to the rest of the sector, are fiercely independent and willing to reward the rewards of the new capacity they have recently put in.

For the moment the whole sector has shaken off the spectre of the Price Commission's investigation into beer prices and expectations of "embarrassingly good" results in the May-June reporting season, when Bass, Allied and Whitbread are all expected to produce pre-tax profits growth of up to a third, should see the sector maintaining its relative strength, particularly as the latest round of beer price rises will help offset sharply rising malt and barley cost pressures.

In the short run, however, trading expectations are likely to be outweighed by the disclosure of share stakes in the regions and longer-term too the regions could remain in the limelight if the Price Commission comes down against larger margins since this has been the chief drive behind the major for the last two years.

Audit committees

Points in favour...

Growing demand for greater and ever more reliable disclosure of information by public companies has focused attention on the kind of audit committees demanded by the New York Stock Exchange and in certain cases in Canada by law.

In a study published by the Accountants International Study Group on current practice in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom the advantages of non-executive directors and auditors seem to far outweigh the disadvantages, and the conclusion naturally, recommends that they should be set up for all publicly owned corporations.

With little concrete evidence quoted of the way in which audit committees have benefited the understanding either of boards or shareholders, the most compelling point made in favour of audit committees comes from research commissioned for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants published seven years ago in which two academics found that there was a reluctance on the part of an auditor to go over the head of operating management to the board of directors.

The presence of an independent body chaired by an outside director with genuine independence could overcome this problem and, coupled with the checks that such a committee would be obliged to make before submitting accounts to the main board for approval, could, perhaps, have averted some of the more celebrated mistakes by United Kingdom auditors which have occurred in recent years.

An audit committee, too, would provide a useful outlet for the energies of non-executive directors, whose presence may be highly valued by the companies that appoint them, but whose roles and responsibilities often seem ill-defined.

The key to the success of such a committee, however, which arguably would be that it increased public confidence in the credibility and objectivity of financial reporting, would depend on how it was constituted. That is a nettle which in the United Kingdom at least, still needs to be grasped for all its wobbly objectives. Shell's audit committee, for example, as outlined in last week's annual report, consists simply of an other sub-group of directors.

It will not be possible to assess the international impact of the new policies until Congress has acted and the bargaining and compromising has ended. There is no doubt that the greatest hope of the President's proposal that are finally approved the greater will be the eventual damage done to the virtual monopoly of the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The most important consideration in the fashioning of this energy programme has been United States national security. America today imports almost half of its oil needs. This situation makes it highly vulnerable to pressure from, for example, the Arab oil producers, so endangering the United States economy and

its position in the world economy.

If, however, you were, say, a Frenchman who like M Barre, the Prime Minister, had long felt that the sterling balances were a factor making the United Kingdom and its currency an unstable partner in any economic or monetary relationship, you might be encouraged about.

It could be taken as an encouraging sign of restored confidence in sterling that so few wish to exchange so little in traditionally harder currencies.

Compared with this time last year, when no one private or public would voluntarily take a position in sterling except a short one, the change in sentiment has been dramatic.

It could equally be encouraging that the genuinely "hot" official sterling balances (that is to say, holdings of sterling not required for trading purposes, nor as the minimum in any properly spread portfolio of official reserves) was now so small as to lead to such a low figure of sales.

It could be that some are encouraged by the apparent confirmation of the view that funding the sterling balances was largely a political gimmick and

that, provided underlying domestic economic policies were sound, there was no real problem.

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It could be that some are encouraged by the apparent confirmation of the view that funding the sterling balances was largely a political gimmick and

dithers with sentiment strongly against them, £400m could go almost in 40 seconds, certainly in 40 minutes. So despite sterling bonds, the question remains what will the authorities do when pressure comes on the existing rates.

Since the watershed of last autumn's 15 per cent bank rate, the IMF loan and the rest, the traffic has been all one way. The policy of buying dollars to stop the pound's exchange rate rising has contributed substantially to the dramatic and welcome rise in the official reserves from \$5.57m then to \$9.000m odd now. The result has been to keep the pound hovering somewhere just above the \$1.71 mark.

This policy of a "floating but fixed" exchange rate for the pound has been the chosen compromise between allowing the rate to rise in order to reduce import prices and forcing it gradually down further in order to maintain export competitiveness, despite our continuing relatively bad performance in containing industrial costs at home.

Since, however, the result of \$1.71 per cent has been taken into the reserves, the logic presumably is that they should be spent as rapidly if need be from the reserves to stop the rate falling. Only when the reserves are as a result once again down to crisis levels does the other element of the sterling stabilization plan, the safety net scheme, under which the authorities could draw to support the reserves, come into effect.

Long before that point the \$0. per cent of official sterling bonds that has been exchanged for Callaghan bonds would be subject to the same kind of pressures in which it reacted with such destabilizing effect during 1976. And the Government would be faced with the full difficulty of the choice between further devaluation or further domestic deflation.

The very strength of sterling since the end of last year has hugely reduced the contribution which the bonds and the safety net scheme could themselves have made to the medium-term stability of sterling.

Hugh Stephenson

Bond sales—encouraging for whom?

It was nice that officials were "encouraged" by the level of last week's sale of Callaghan bonds, overseas buyers of sterling balances.

At £1.71 per cent, £400m of dollar, Deutsche mark, Swiss franc and yen bonds sold, it was not absolutely apparent what they were being encouraged about.

It could be taken as an encouraging sign of restored confidence in sterling that so few wish to exchange so little in traditionally harder currencies.

Compared with this time last year, when no one private or public would voluntarily take a position in sterling except a short one, the change in sentiment has been dramatic.

It could equally be encouraging that the genuinely "hot" official sterling balances (that is to say, holdings of sterling not required for trading purposes, nor as the minimum in any properly spread portfolio of official reserves) was now so small as to lead to such a low figure of sales.

It could be that some are encouraged by the apparent confirmation of the view that funding the sterling balances was largely a political gimmick and

that, provided underlying domestic economic policies were sound, there was no real problem.

If, however, you were, say, a Frenchman who like M Barre, the Prime Minister, had long felt that the sterling balances were a factor making the United Kingdom and its currency an unstable partner in any economic or monetary relationship, you might be encouraged about.

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ward, although new reaction development, notably in the plutonium area, will be halted or slowed.

More importantly, perhaps, he has indicated that a new petrol tax will be imposed, which will rise from year to year until consumption is cut sharply.

He has also indicated that existing controls on oil and gas prices will be swiftly phased out. These measures are probably the most important in the short-term for reversing the trend of rising energy consumption.

Because these policies will raise prices and because they may well be accompanied by measures that limit the profits of oil companies from higher retail prices, they are likely to be the toughest to get through Congress.

Consumers and oil companies alike may well find themselves on the same side for a change in fighting these necessary, but most burdensome, proposals.

In addition, Dr Schlesinger has given strong hints that a big tax will be imposed on large cars with heavy fuel consumption, while special tax cuts will be offered to people who buy small and highly fuel-efficient cars.

The controversy already rages over this suggestion illustrates the battle to which the President is going to have to fight to secure adoption of his energy programme.

American trade unions are maintaining that car production will gravely damage United States exports and thus the switch to new uncertainties about the 1977 and 1978 inflation, budget and energy outlook for this country.

Such uncertainties are likely to damage the economy and investor confidence in particular and thus the switch to new uncertainties about the 1977 and 1978 inflation, budget and energy outlook for this country.

The influence of the car companies is also most formidable and their view of a tax on large cars was boldly stated recently by Mr Thomas Murphy, the chairman of General Motors, who, having noted that the tax would reduce the basic American right of freedom of choice, said the idea is "the most simplistic irresponsible proposal ever made".

The new energy programme could well rank among the most important acts of President Carter's term in office, but selling it will be incredibly tough. The costs of fueling in this task will be immense for all people and not just for Americans who now will have to decide whether they are prepared to make some sacrifices for the long-term benefits of everyone.

Frank Vogl

President Carter takes first step to sell energy programme to the American people

'Preparing the measures has been exhausting, but the effort made so far, as government officials are swift to note, is nothing in comparison to the task ahead of winning Congressional approval for the proposals... Every measure contained in the plan will be aimed at reducing dependence on imported energy and so strengthening security'

East and this is a matter that could pose some of the toughest diplomatic problems at the economic summit conference of leaders of the key industrial nations in London in May.

Foreign leaders, however, will have to weigh their criticism of the impact of President Carter's plan, plus the possible criticism of his recently announced renunciation of commercial United States use of plutonium, with the need to give him every encouragement in his efforts to enhance energy conservation and domestic energy output. Simply stated, the more successful America is with its energy policies so the brighter is the general world, economic outlook.

The initial aim is to reduce imports of oil to about one-third of American needs by about 1985 or slightly sooner if possible. At the same time the new policy will stress the need for reducing imports, in particular, from countries that might be unfriendly under emergency conditions, such as the Arab nations in the event of another Middle East war.

President Carter has already met Canadian government leaders and he plans to meet Venezuelan leaders in June. Efforts will be made to strengthen energy imports from these countries in coming years, while at the same time striving to reduce the overall level of imports.

Such policies may conceivably enhance the dependence of allied countries in western Europe on oil from the Middle East.

To sweeten the bitter pills to be offered to the American people, the President will propose a series of general tax concessions.

These tax concessions are designed to offset any general inflationary effects of the energy programme. But the unpredictable ability of Congress to will probably approve some of the tax and energy measures and kill others—will produce big new uncertainties about the 1977 and 1978 inflation, budget and energy outlook for this country.

After surviving two of the worst recessions in recent history, one in trade generally and one in the textile field, the British wool textile industry is making a rapid and confident recovery.

So much so, that a spokesman for the Wool Textile Delegation was moved to comment yesterday: "Seldom has there been a time when British woollens and worsteds have been at such a point of popularity."

Helping to hearten woollenmen have been the recent announcements of restrictions on imported clothing, mainly from the Comecon countries, which has not only flooded the home market but by its cheapness has disrupted the price structure here.

A brighter outlook for the home market is seen as sufficient justification of substantial restructuring and reequipping carried out by several companies.

Government aid schemes have been taken full advantage of. By the end of this year some £75m will have been spent comprising about £57m on machinery and the balance on new buildings. Of that amount the Government will have contributed some £17m.

Canary islanders also feel, and they have felt for some time, that they are neglected and discriminated against. They suffer from the highest rate of inflation in Spain, a lack of confidence in the government, severe agricultural problems, and a drought which has lasted for years.

On the labour side, the drain of operatives which has been a feature of the industry during the past two years, has stopped and reversed, and companies are now taking on workers again. Practically everybody is

British wool industry is making a rapid and confident recovery

President Carter must look a little favourably on the British industry, having only recently received a suit length of Huddersfield superfine worsted with his initials in an elongated form making up the pin stripe in the blue cloth.

Concessions by the United States for British imports is not such a one-sided argument as it may seem. The British wool textile industry believes that unless the high quality American clothing manufacturers are given help in improving access to woollens and worsteds from abroad, which the American mills cannot provide in the quantities demanded by the fashion industry, then they will have difficulty in surviving.

The latest export figures for January and February this year show a 24 per cent increase in the volume of wool cloth sales and a 53 per cent increase in value compared with last year. The National Wool Textile Export Corporation have found the reason.

The high quality "British look" has become firmly established in both men's and women's fashions in many overseas countries. There has also been a swing back to natural fabrics.

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Photo-Me Int

In the half-year to October
31, turnover of Photo-Me Inter-
national rose from £6.65m to
£8.39m. Pre-tax profits were up
from £982,000 to £1.12m. With
the continued upward trend in
turnover and costs largely contained,
profits had risen, the board
explains. The second-half's results
are expected to be at least as maintained on the
increased capital.

Bougainville Copper

Bougainville Copper reports a
proposed offering in the inter-
national capital market by Bou-
gainville Copper Finance NV of
US\$25m principal amount of
guaranteed notes due 1984. The
notes will be unconditionally
guaranteed by Bougainville
Copper.

Bougainville Copper operates
one of the largest copper mines
in the world on Bougainville
Island, Papua New Guinea.

The board reports that the grade

is 11 cents per
tonne.

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Base

**1976 ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR
FOR PROVIDENT MUTUAL**

**Extracts from the Statement by
Mr David L. M. Robertson, Chairman.**

Against the economic background of 1976 the Association

had a successful year, increasing premium income by 19.8%

over 1975 to a total of £24.36m. The accounts for 1976 show the

net income to the ordinary long-term insurance fund increased

by 31% to £38.7m. The expense ratio at 17.73% was a little

higher in 1976 than the 1975 figure of 16.87%.

Pensions

In the past decade group pensions' business placed with us

by insurance brokers has accounted for the conspicuous

expansion of funds. During 1976 new group business was

limited because of voluntary pay restraint and the market was

quiet. However, if the government's hopes of a partnership

between the State and private pension schemes are to be

realised, hopefully some concessions will soon be made for the

provision of retirement benefits so that group pensions'

business can move forward in a new era of expansion.

Bonuses

Although our next formal declaration of bonuses is not due

until the end of this year, it is already clear that the holders of

with-profit policies should be able to look forward to increased

rates of bonus for all classes of policy. This arises from the

recovery of investment values compared with those at the end

of the previous triennium and the high rates of interest

achieved in 1976.

Summary of Principal Results

1976 £'000 **1975** £'000

11,111 9,723

5,436 3,308

43,589 36,381

197,715 163,009

New annual premiums

Single premiums (including considerations for annuities)

Premium income (including all single premiums)

Total fund at end of year

**1976 ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR
FOR PROVIDENT MUTUAL**

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Euromarkets

Though more than \$700m worth of new Eurobond issues were scheduled for offering last week, prices of seasoned Eurobond issues rose and it seemed likely that the relatively large supplies would be easily absorbed, underwriters and dealers predicted, writes A. P. Dow Jones.

The consensus view among market professionals was that probably managers and large retail investors were putting large amounts of money into the bond market after holding back for some time to see whether an uptrend in short-term interest rates would develop.

Traders said that much of the investment community was now taking the view that short

term interest rates would remain stable for at least several months and that the likelihood of an upsurge in inflation occurring anytime soon was remote.

A Swiss investment banker commented that demand for European and Eurodollar bonds was particularly strong in his country because the return on Swiss franc bonds was too low.

Among the issues scheduled for offering was an awaited \$150m 10-year issue of Volkswagen Overseas Finance N.V. with an indicated annual coupon of 7.75 per cent.

The issue is guaranteed by Volkswagenwerke AG, which just announced a 1976 group profit of \$1.5bn compared with DM1.000bn in 1975. The offering is being led jointly by Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) and Deutsche Bank.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

	Offer	Redem.	Yield	Price
U.S. STRAIGHTS				
Australia \$ 1983	102	7.65		
B.H. Canada \$ 1987	101	7.65		
C.U.C.A. \$ 1987	101	7.65		
E.U.A. \$ 1986	101	7.65		
U.S. Int'l. \$ 1991	101	7.65		
U.S. Int'l. \$ 1963	101	7.65		
D.S.M. \$ 1986	105	7.65		
E.U.A. \$ 1984	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1982	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1983	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1984	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1985	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1986	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1987	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1988	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1989	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1990	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1991	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1992	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1993	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1994	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1995	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1996	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1997	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1998	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 1999	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2000	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2001	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2002	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2003	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2004	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2005	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2006	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2007	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2008	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2009	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2010	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2011	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2012	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2013	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2014	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2015	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2016	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2017	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2018	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2019	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2020	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2021	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2022	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2023	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2024	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2025	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2026	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2027	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2028	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2029	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2030	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2031	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2032	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2033	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2034	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2035	101	7.65		
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E.U.C. \$ 2067	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2068	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2069	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2070	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2071	101	7.65		
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E.U.C. \$ 2077	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2078	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2079	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2080	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2081	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2082	101	7.65		
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E.U.C. \$ 2095	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2096	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2097	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2098	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2099	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2100	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2101	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2102	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2103	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2104	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2105	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2106	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2107	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2108	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2109	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2110	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2111	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2112	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2113	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2114	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2115	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2116	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2117	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2118	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2119	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2120	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2121	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2122	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2123	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2124	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2125	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2126	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2127	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2128	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2129	101	7.65		
E.U.C. \$ 2130	101	7.65		

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

Account Days : Dealings Began, April 12, Dealings End, April 22. § Contango Day, April 25, Settlement Day, May 3

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

COMPANY MEETING NOTICES

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHARE CAPITAL, I.C.S.U.P.
Societe Anonyme
Registered Office:
23, avenue de la Porte Neuve
R.G.Luxembourg B-7543

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the Company will be held at 22, avenue de la Porte Neuve, R.G.Luxembourg B-7543 on April 26th 1977 at 8.30 a.m. for the following purposes, namely:

(1) To receive the reports of the Directors, statutory auditor and auditors;

To adopt the balance sheet and the profit and loss account as at December 31, 1976;

To approve the transfer in the Fund of the results of the Reorganisation Committee of the assets and liabilities of the Company;

To discharge the Directors and Statutory Auditor;

Resolution as to continue the publication of quarterly financial reports;

Resignation of a director;

To transact any other business.

In order to attend the Meeting, the shareholders are requested to advise the Company of their shareholdings five days before the Meeting with only the amount of shares held in full or partially paid up.

The shares will remain on deposit until the Meeting.

Shareholders are requested to bring the Certificate of Shareholding.

Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas
Poste Grise-Duché de Luxembourg
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas in Paris, London and Amsterdam.

Banca Commerciale Italiana: head
The Board of Directors.

COMPANY NOTICES

SMA VISCOSA
SOCIETÀ NAZIONALE INDUSTRIA
APPLICAZIONI VISCOSA
CONVOCAZIONE DI MEETING

Shareholders are hereby notified that the ORDINARY MEETING will be held on FRIDAY 28th April 1977 at 8.30 a.m. at Corso Italia 10, Genova, Italy, to deliberate on the following:

(1) AGENDA

(2) Report of the Board of Directors and Balance Sheet at the 31st December 1976 and related deliberations;

(3) Appointment of Directors after consideration of their numbers;

(4) Appointment of Auditors, of their fees;

(5) Deliberation and determination of dividends;

(6) Adoption of the new Statute of the Company;

(7) Adoption of the new Statute of the Directors, statutory auditor and auditors;

(8) Adoption of the new Statute of the Directors, statutory auditor and auditors;

(9) Adoption of the new Statute of the Directors, statutory auditor and auditors;

(10) Adoption of the new Statute of the Directors, statutory auditor and auditors;

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(129) Adoption

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ing."—St John 30: 27.

BIRTHS

DAVIES.—On April 13th, at the
Westminster Hospital, (Stephanie
and Philip), a brother for Emma

GOYER.—On 14th April, at

Savannah Hospital, to Diana

and John Goyer, son of Mr and

Mrs Goyer (Patrick James Andrew).

HOLLY.—On April 14th, at St
John's Church, Chelmsford, Essex,
in memory of her husband and
children (see Benenden) and Pe-

terine.

MARRIAGES

BRAT.—HOOPER.—On April 16th
at the Royal Memorial Chapel,
Westminster Abbey, (Stephen and
Erin) to Hazel M. C. Hooper

HARVEY.—PATTERSON.—On

Saturday, 15th April, at St

I.W.M.C., Christopher Hanmersey,
of 10, Nunhead Road, Nunhead,

Kensington, London SW10, to

Ruth Harvey (see Patterson).

RETHAM.—KUMAR.—On Saturday,
April 15th, at St. Michael's Church,
Kensington, Michael Kumar (see
Retham) to Sunita Kumari (see
Retham).

WEINSTEIN.—ROUBLAY.—On

Wednesday, 19th April, at St. Paul's

Church, Chelmsford, Essex, to

Joanne Doubleday.

SILVER WEDDING

SUMMER BIRDSONG.—On April

16th, at St. Paul's Church, (Ronald

Frank Guymer) to Patricia Lesley

Summersong (see Birdsong).

WILLIAM.—WILLIAM.—On

Wednesday, 19th April, at St. Paul's

Church, Chelmsford, Essex, to

Devon William (see William).

DEATHS

ALDRIDGE.—On April 16th, 1977,

at 56 Watling Lane, Farnham,

Harold Williams, aged 78 years.

Devoted husband of the late

Dorothy and father of Ann and

Lesley. Cremation will take

place at Farnham Cemetery.

BUDDING.—Flowers and

tributes to the family.

DEVON.—Ashton.—On April

16th, Richard Ashton, of

Wells, Glastonbury, Somerset, 79

years, husband of Vesta,

mother of Sophie and Christopher

and Research.

DEVON.—April 16th, 1977, in

a nursing home at Monkton,

Eric Hugh Stiles, 86, Surveyor.

Devotionate husband of

the late Mary.

Memorial service at

Monkton Cemetery, 1pm, Friday,

April 21st.

DOUGLASS.—On April 16th,

1977, in his 80th year, John

Henry, old canal digger

(9).

Flowers, or in a wavy tiny

vegetables (5, 4).

Architectural style of Welsh

family house (5).

DOWN

1 Monuments for sale—might

need repair (9).

2 Marks for film awards,

nothing less (5).

3 Fancy him entering wrong

race! (7).

4 Perhaps it's cut off when

climbing—very cold (6).

5 Determined to re-arrange

Lee's tour (8).

DEATHS

CODLING.—On 16th April, Anne, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.B.E. Codling, who died in 1968.

Deary, loved wife of Bob and mother of Gillian (see above).

Deary, wife of Gillian (see above).

DEARY.—On 16th April, 1977,

peacefully, at her home, Lynne

Chapman, Deary, loved husband

of Muriel and David (see above).

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